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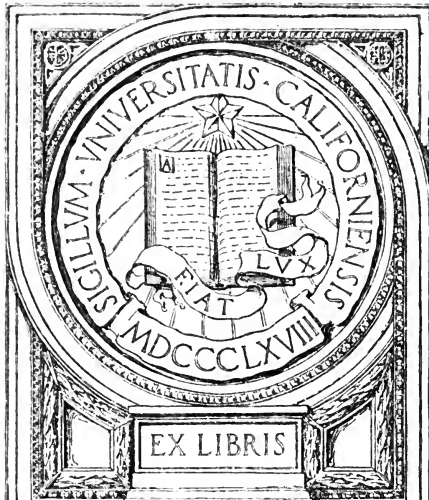
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# ITALY

past and present.





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past and present.



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**ITALY**  
**past and present.**

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# ITALY

## past and present.

The special Rotunda of the Italian Exhibit contains the likenesses of men who carried on high the torch of human progress, forerunners and masters in science and art; it illustrates the various phases and steps passed through to attain Italian Unity; it renders bare justice to the principal leaders in the national struggle; it prospects the present state of the country as compared with its former condition in comparatively recent times: in one word it has the elements necessary to give an idea of what we *were* and what we *are*.

People from afar, who live their own lives, in their own surroundings and atmosphere, not altogether familiar with our present standing, are wont to consider Italy from the standpoint of its majestic ruins, its glorious buildings, statues and pictures, the whole seasoned with melodic singing and maccaroni! A delightful haunt for tourists, where sunny skies enhance the joy of beautiful landscapes, noble remains of former times, unique collections of art, towns, villages and hamlets reflecting the life of past ages: so far, so good. Our climate is delightful, our country picturesque, the monuments and treasures of former civilisations bring home to one's mind the fact that in some aspects of life progress is not continual, that the sense of beauty embodied in stone or canvass is hardly a modern invention; the strains on the Venetian canals or the bay of Naples evoke musical sentiment; even the maccaroni, when properly prepared and cooked, carry their gastronomical lesson: but that is not all.

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Beside the past lives the present; beside two eras in which Italy stood foremost, holding undisputed sway among nations, stands a third, the modern, in which she rises again to strenuous life, holding her own, a great nation among nations, in all the branches of our present civilisation, thinking, writing, working, striving on the path of industrial, economical, social, political, moral progress.

To the many who know the Italian people merely through its peaceful army of sober hardworking emigrants, born out of the rapid fructifying increase in the population, our present conditions are unknown and these we endeavour to bring home to them in a sober reproduction of faces, facts and figures endowed with silent eloquence for those who care to know.

It is as though, through past and present work, the principal civiliser of the Old World were extending its hand to the principal civiliser of the New, in the profound belief that past endeavour, natural aptitudes, natural sympathies can and will bind together the United States and united Italy in the immortal cause of human progress !

Many of the following biographical summaries, explanations or tabular demonstrations of facts will be familiar to many of our readers; to some however they may be new, to others interesting: therein lies the justification of their appearing in print.

## **EXPLORERS.**

### **CRISTOFORO COLOMBO.**

Cristoforo Colombo was born at Cogoletto in the Gulf of Genoa it is supposed towards 1445. His father, a wool carder, appreciating the boy's natural talent for mathematics, geography and astronomy, left him free to study first at Genova, then to complete the higher course at Pavia. He afterwards entrusted him to a cousin, an old privateer who sailed with letters of marque to war against the enemies of Genoa, the Turks and the Venetians. The boy



took kindly indeed to the adventurous life, was soon completely enthralled by the problems and dangers of the seas, still little is known of his life from 14 to 25. Toward 1470 his navigation began limited however until 1473 to the Mediterranean, where probab'y he was in the service of Renato d'Angio who had the highest opinion of his worth as a navigator. In 76 he was in Portugal on a Portuguese ship; whilst navigating 100 leagues beyond Iceland he was surprised to find himself in open water. In 1481, after living for some time at Lisbon, he married the daughter of an Italian, Pelestrello, governor of Porto Santo, in the Madeira group, he had colonised. He settled there, found great help in the governor's charts in drawing up the ocean charts and geographical maps on which he depended for a livelihood. Whilst living at Porto Santo, poring over maps, he convinced himself of land existing beyond the ocean.

The first traces of his project to cross the Atlantic appear toward 1480 in a correspondence with an Italian physician, Toscanelli, who had already conceived something of the same kind and submitted it to the Portuguese Court. The spherical shape of the globe, then universally admitted, theories of old and modern writers, presumptions of navigators, all pointed one way, justified the project so long thought over, to abandon the near east for the far west. He laid before King John of Portugal his plan, but the learned seers called upon to examine it pooh poohed it as Utopia! Towards 1486 convinced more than ever of his theory's truth by the futile opposition it raised, he went to Spain, where, thanks to a past confessor in favour at Court he met at the hand of Queen Isabella a more indulgent reception. Still time passed; only after seven years strife against obstacles springing up on all sides, was the expedition decided.

With infinite labour, recurring uselessly to Portugal, England, France and Spain, over a dozen years passed in useless endeavours to obtain from some one vessels and letters of marque; finally in 1491 Isabella of Spain and a grudging husband, Ferdinand, conceded him three small caravels and 120 men to proceed on his voyage of discovery across the boundless ocean! They sailed. After infinite doubts and fears on the part of the crew, threats and open mutiny, finally land was reached the 12 October 1492 at

S. Salvador, touching afterwards Conception and Cuba, Haiti and S. Domingo.

He might have been as discouraged as his men, had not the floating seaweed, the shifting of the magnetic needle both comforted him and convinced him the land was there. At last! The return in Spain was a triumph. In a second expedition, September 1493, the Admiral reached the Caraibo Islands, Porto Rico and Jamaica; in a third, 1498, Trinidad and the mouth of the Orinoco. In 1500 Ferdinand rewarded Colombo by putting him in chains, whilst sending a governor to replace him in the new lands he had discovered. Reembarking again still on discoveries intent, in May 1502 he coasted along Honduras and Costarica without notable results, returning to Spain in 1504, to oblivion, ingratitude, misery and death at Valladolid on the 20 of May 1506.

### SEBASTIANO CABOTO.

Sebastiano Caboto, son of John, a merchant in Venice, born in Bristol 1477, received from Henry the VII letters patent authorising him to discover and conquer unknown lands in the King's name. Sailed, probably with his father, certainly with his brothers Louis and Sanzio, from Bristol 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1497. Was the first to discover North America, reached 56 latitude, probably the coast of Labrador. Whereby, on his return, obtained other letters patent, 3<sup>d</sup> February, 1498, authorising John Caboto to possess himself of six ships of 200 tonnage or less in any part of the Kingdom to take possession of the discovered lands in the King's name. Sebastian was the head and commander of the expedition.

On the death of Henry the VII Sebastian Caboto removed to Spain September 1512, on the invitation of Ferdinand, invested with the title of Captain on generous pay, until, disgusted by the persecution to which he was subjected by Fonseca, also the chief enemy of Columbus, he returned to England, where, in 1517, he was employed by Henry the VII in seeking the traditional North West Passage. He gained latitude 67 1/2 it seems, entering Hudson's Bay. Again in Spain Charles V invested him with the title

of head Pilot and the privilege of examining and reporting on all projects of maritime discovery. In 1526 a company was formed in Seville for trading with the Moluccas, Caboto directing. He organised an expedition that gained the coast of Brazil, explored the River La Plata, took possession of the banks, erected forts for the protection of projected colonies, but was obliged to return in 1531, incapable of withstanding the attacks of the natives.

In 1540 Caboto again returned to England, favoured by Edward V. After directing an expedition to the Baltic and the Northern Ocean, inaugurating commercial traffic with Russia, he is supposed to have died, octogenarian, in England in the year 1557.

The portrait is an enlargement of the engraving of the "Harford" attributed to Holbein. The dress the official one as "Governor of the mysterie and companie of the Merchants adventures for the discoverie of Regions, Dominions, Islands and places unknownen".

## AMERIGO VESPUCCI.

Born in Florence the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 1451, son of a notary, Anastasio, nephew of a Dominican friar, friend of Fra Savonarola, Fra Giorgio Antonio, to whom he owed his scholarly education.

With a pronounced bent for philosophy, astronomy and geography, he was placed by his father clerk in the great commercial house of the Medici. Sent as agent of the firm to Seville, on the death of an Italian merchant, Juanoto Berardi, who had fitted out Columbus's second expedition in 1493 and had undertaken to organise another of twelve ships for the King of Spain, Vespucci was commissioned to complete the contract in 1495.

He claims to have sailed on a first expedition from Cadiz in 1497, on a second in May 1499, on a third in the service of Don Manuel of Portugal in May 1501, on a fourth and last for Portugal with six ships in May 1503. In 1595, receiving Spanish letters of naturalisation, he was named chief pilot of Spain, an office he held until his death in Seville 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 1512.

Vespucci's account affirms his reaching the American mainland

eight days before Giovanni Caboto, June the 16<sup>th</sup> against June the 24<sup>th</sup> 1497. Whether or no his own narration carries conviction, whether his letter to Lorenzo Pier Francesco di Medici, head of his firm, be in all details strictly true, it carried such weight at the time to induce his contemporaries to baptise the newly discovered continent across the ocean as *America*, in honour of the supposed and alleged discoverer. Not perhaps the first or the last time in which the glory and the profit of an invention or discovery does not revert to the original inventor or discoverer.

The portrait is a copy of the famous affresco in the family tomb by Ghirlandaio, at Borgognissanti, Florence, where Amerigo as a youth is represented together with the other members of the family.

### *Marquis ALESSANDRO MALASPINA.*

Descendant of the ancient noble family of the Malaspinas, for many centuries established in the Province of Carrara, famous for its marble quarries, his father was the Marquis Carlo Moroello Malaspina of Mulazzo; the hereditary fief, his mother Caterina Malilupi Soragna of Parma. Born on August 30, 1749, Alessandro entered in his youth military service at the Court of Spain, then recurring to foreigners to uphold its tradition of military adventure. He embraced with enthusiasm the naval career, early distinguishing himself amongst his compeers. Thus, after gaining brilliantly his first promotions from ensign to lieutenant, in the battle between the English and the Spanish fleets in 1778 his ship the "San Julian" was captured and an English prize crew placed on board. He took advantage of a storm to incite his fellow prisoners to rise on their conquerors, turn the tables, and enter Seville in triumph with the English captors in captivity. For this act of valour he was created first lieutenant.

On his return from a voyage to Manilla and other spots in the Indian Ocean, he was ordered on a scientific expedition. Embarking on the frigate "Astrea" in 1785 from Cadiz, rounding Cape Horn he landed at Lima, explored the coasts of Peru and passing

by the Philippines and again by Cape Horn, returned to Europe. The results of his voyage were considered extremely satisfactory, he gaining by it the promotion to Commander of a Line of Battle Ship.

When Charles the III again resolved on fitting out a new expedition to the New World, in order to trace the ocean currents, discover yet unknown lands, study the Fauna and the Flora of the new Continent, notwithstanding much heartburn among native Spanish Captains, jealous of any preference accorded to a foreigner, Malaspina was chosen commander of the new venture. Two Corvettes, "Scoperta" (the Discoverer) and "L'Intrepida" (The Intrepid), well armed, provisioned for a long journey, were provided at the royal expense. Whilst Malaspina had the general direction of the enterprise, his companion, commander of the second Corvette, was Captain Bustamante. A naturalist, a painter and an architect sailed with them for scientific purposes. They started from Cadiz in 1789, the voyage lasting five years.

After visiting the Isle of Trinidad, they landed at Montevideo, explored the banks of the Rio de la Plata, determined exactly the features of the Patagonian shore and the Malvina Islands. Noting the principal points worthy of remark along the Chilean coast, they continued by Valparaiso, Callao, Guayaquil and the Isthmus of Panama to Acapulco in Mexico, tarrying there to take in necessary stores. Sailing along the coast they determined the position of Mount S. Elia being the first to discover Alaska. Returning to Acapulco they visited the Marian Islands and whilst the "Intrepida" went on to Macao, Malaspina made for the Philippines, where the two again consorting, together with another vessel picked up there, the "Sottile", sailed along the coast of New Holland, from thence to Lima and Buenos Aires, returning afterwards to Europe.

On his return Malaspina was received by the Spanish Sovereign with honour and promotion, would have doubtless enjoyed an unchequered, brilliant career had not intrigues at Court, involving male and above all female jealousy, enabled the favourite and prime Minister, the ill and justly ill famed Don Manuel Godoy, to poison the King's ear, persecute and track his supposed enemy down, finally order his imprisonment in the Castle of S. Antonio

della Corogna, where he lay for several years. He recovered his liberty when Lodovico of Parma ascended the throne, returned to Italy, living, in peace and honour at Pontremoli, where his family had greatly descended in riches and position. Though in the beginning of the century Napoleon named him Senator of the central Italian Kingdom, he preferred quietude, would accept no office. His death took place at the age of sixtyone, on the 9 of April 1810.

### LUIGI DI SAVOIA, DUCA DEGLI ABRUZZI.

The characteristics ever distinguishing the House of Savoy, courage and love of adventure, are admirably exemplified in Luigi di Savoia, Duca degli Abruzzi, son of Amadeus, late King of Spain, first cousin of His Majesty, Victor Emanuel III, King of Italy. He nobly represents the modern type of explorers and discoverers, who, from Marco Polo onwards, navigated unknown seas, sought out unknown lands, reflected glory on Mediaeval Italy.

The Duke was born in Madrid the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1873, born whilst his young mother, Mary Victoria, Princess Pozzo della Cisterna, was going through moments of violent political agitation, alternatives of violence that induced his father, Amadeus, in his straightforward fealty to constitutional principles, to resign the throne rather than recur to military force in governing his subjects.

When six years old the boy was inscribed as sailor in the royal Navy; at ten he entered the naval Academy, at sixteen passed with honours his examination and was entered midshipman. During this period of boyhood, besides gaining his fellow student's affection, he gave proof of exceptional capacity and diligence; alive to a sentiment of duty, he did what was appointed and did it well. After navigating a few years, in 1890 King Humbert named him Duke of the Abruzzi; on his 21<sup>st</sup> year, together with the other Royal Princes, he was called to the Senate.

Experience proved him to be a skilled and trustworthy sailor, calm and energetic in all emergencies, martial fire subjected to cool reflection; his desire to walk where no man had placed his

foot, explore the mysteries of hitherto unknown regions, thus paying his tribute to general and scientific knowledge, soon developed and took action.

When barely nineteen he began at home, attracted by his native Alps. Between 1892 and 1894 he not only scaled all the well known, but more difficult peaks, Mont Blanc, the Cervinus, Mount Rosa, but the "Dent du Géant", the "Aiguilles sans nom", the "Aiguille Verte", the "Rocky Peak", the Peak by him named after his cousin the "Princess Joland" of the "Dames anglaises"; the latter four successfully scaled, notwithstanding less fortunate trials by other well known alpinists, for the first time.

After navigating for ten years, the last two cruising round the world, first lieutenant of the "Christopher Columbus", he obtained a leave of absence; it was spent, well spent, but could hardly be called a holiday, ascending Mount Saint Elia in Alaska. He left Turin the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, with his aide de camp, Cap. Cagni, some other companions, besides two trustworthy alpine guides, touched at San Francisco, Seattle and Port Mulgrave, landed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June at the base of the vast "Malaspina" glacier, there to begin the ascent. Four expeditions before his had attempted unsuccessfully to gain the summit: in 1886 Captain, Dr. Libbey; in 1888 Captain, Dr. E. H. Harold; in 1890 and 1891 expeditions organised by the United States Geographical Society, directed by Prof. Israel C. Russell. Together with the Duke's another venture, directed by Dr. Buyant of Philadelphia, was bent on the same purpose.

The party started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July at three a.m. at a temperature of barely 2 degrees above zero (Cent.). Once negotiated the Malaspina glacier, the Seward one rose before them. Once surmounted, at 1200 metres above sea level, the real enterprise began at the Newton glacier, seven miles long, rising between sheer walls of ice from 1171 to 2731 metres. Thirteen days were spent in crawling up. On the summit the last camp left them with the pyramid of Saint Elia towering before their eyes. The 30<sup>th</sup> they were at 3745 metres, sure of success, with redoubled energies they continued the upward way, gained 5000 metres the morning of the 31<sup>st</sup>, at a quarter to twelve the same day planted the Italian Flag

on the summit of the mountain, 5514 metres, with a temperature of 12 degrees below zero (Cent.).



Fired with emulation at Peary's first attempt and Nansen's to reach the Pole, Wrangel's to pierce northwards in Siberia, his second expedition was on the "Stella Polare" (the Polar Star) a whaling vessel, fitted out with stores for two years. The main idea was to proceed northward by water as far the ice allowed, then hibernate and proceed onwards to the Pole with sledges. The Polar Star left Christiania towards the middle of June, embarked at Arcangel the dogs, moved onwards, making its way with difficulty through floes and pack ice until it gained 82.4 latitude, in sight of Prince Rudolph's land. Coasting round the island the floes closed so violently round the vessel's keel as though she were held in a vice. No further way by water was possible; stores and material were landed, a hut erected, every preparation for living through a polar winter made. It was December, in the midst of the long Polar night; the Duke calculated to prepare men and dogs for the land struggle at the first glimpse of the arctic day in February. It was then, whilst he was working, exploring around, in the teeth of a bitter north wind, that the fingers of his right hand were badly frostbitten, so badly as to necessitate amputation. A cruel sorrow, since it debarred him from commanding those who were to push forward by land and ultimately reach, it was hoped the North Pole! Cagni was obliged to replace him. The party set out on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, divided into three groups, two to station in various advanced points for the victualling of the third. About 480 miles separated them from the Pole. Surrounded by always increasing difficulties they gallantly struggled onwards, dogs and men worn out, until the time when dog meat would have been their only food. They had reached 86.33.49 when Cagni, having to choose between perishing or turning back, sorrowfully turned his face south. The latitude reached was the highest up to then attained by any previous expedition. As onward, so they had to struggle back, amidst difficulties and privations. In June a sudden thaw kept them prisoners for eighty days within sight of the Bay



of Tiplitz ; after having looked death in the face many times, on a floating iceberg they were able to touch land, across the bleak arctic continent rejoin their companions, haggard and worn, the emaciated shadows of the hale and muscular men who left them three months before !

The Polar Star was literally dug out of the surrounding ice, gained the open sea, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September entered Norway's extreme northern port, Hammerfest.



From the Pole to the Tropics ! This time, towering over Lake Albert. Edward, the mighty mountain, Ruwenzori, in the heart of Uganda, tempted Luigi di Savoia's adventurous spirit in 1906. Others had preceded him, none gained fully the goal of their desire. Neither Sir Samuel Baker in 1864, nor Gessi in 1876, nor Sir H. Stanley, nor Dr. Stuhlmann in 1891, nor Scott Elliot in 1895, nor Moore, nor Sir H. Johnston in 1900, nor Dr. David, nor Douglas Freshfield in 1905, nor Dr. Wollaston and Fisher, who in the same year 1906, made their attempt unsuccessfully. Little positive information had been gleaned as to the shape, structure, height of the majestic mountain, even the supposed course of its streams, tributaries to the Nile.

The Duke left Naples for Mombasa in company with Cagni, Sella, his previous companions, his faithful alpine guides, all necessary stores and scientific implements. They crossed Lake Victoria the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, arrived the 29<sup>th</sup> at Fort Portal 1530 metres above sea level, at the base of the mountain whose summit they hoped to gain. Without any reliable information as to the least difficult track, the mountain's side on which they could best cut out their way, it was a matter of personal judgement ; the Duke's was reliable, both as a practised mountaineer and one who in so many difficult emergencies had given proof of being able to cope with them. He chose the valley of Mobuku, shorter and better known ; nor was he mistaken, as the sequel showed. To the left of Mobuku stretched a vast surface shut in by the mountain, grading upwards ; they ascertained it afterwards to be the hollow through which the

river Bujuku had dug its course, descending directly from the summit of the Ruwenzori.

In accordance with the established plan, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of June they camped at Bujongolo 3798 metres above sea level; the subsequent days were spent by the Duke in prospecting the territory around, and coming to a final decision as to how they should circumvent the mass that in stupendous majesty raised its head before them. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, with two guides, two Italian carriers, five native ones, the Duke, descending to the extremity of the Butagu valley, facing north, ascended Mount Scott Elliott between M. Baker and M. Speke, camping at 4516 metres on the rocks overlying the Elena Glacier. The morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> the ascent was resumed, at 11.30 the Duke had the satisfaction of planting the Italian flag in the snow, on the summit of the highest peak of the Ruwenzori, by him named Peak Margherita, at an altitude of 5125 metres. To the mount on which it rose, he gave the name of Stanley, the celebrated explorer, its first discoverer.

\* \* \*

There was only one other ascent left to tempt the bold and hardy explorer, that of the Hymalaya, the succession of giant crests raising themselves between 8 and 9000 metres above sea level. In the Karakorum chain, that of the upper Hymalaya, the K2, also known as Chogori, had been attempted, in vain attempted, rising as it does to 8610 metres, by bold spirits, practised mountaineers. A sufficient reason for trying where so many others had failed, though the difficulties of the mountain itself were doubled by those attaining the rarified atmosphere at such extreme heights. Still, if one could hardly dare to hope absolute success, there was always reasonable certitude of notable results from a scientific point of view.

As usual the Duke was accompanied by Sella and De Filippi, besides his aide de camp, Marquis Negrotto and the usual faithful alpine guides. The expedition reached Bombay on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April, on the 17<sup>th</sup> Shrinagar in the Cashmere Valley. From thence, by devious ways, to Askoley, a village 3000 metres above sea level, the 14<sup>th</sup> of May. Skirting the Balton glacier, Mount Chogori lay

before them; they camped on the glacier at 5000 metres. The following days were as usual devoted to prospecting and determining the track. They then proceeded onwards, but at 5500 metres the excessively friable rock entailed cutting steps and with the utmost efforts in two days barely two hundred metres were gained. It was no use going further, but loth to renounce, the Duke with Sella made an extreme effort. They gained the Bride Peak at 5470 metres, went upwards to 5800 the 9<sup>th</sup> July, the 11<sup>th</sup> to 6604; on the 12<sup>th</sup> they attempted to gain the summit, but at 7100 metres could go no further; on the 17<sup>th</sup> their last effort took them to 7493 metres; no further upwards could their strength in the rarified atmosphere carry them. It was enough and a gallant feat indeed!

\* \* \*

The Duke is now Admiral in chief of our Navy; no man enjoyed or enjoys greater confidence in the fleet and in the nation. Of his seamanship he has given abundant proof, whereby as a seaman he ranks among the best for knowledge and judgement, as an explorer for his discoveries, his grit, his dogged resolve. What he is and what he has done place him foremost amongst those who have contributed to a more complete knowledge of our globe; he may well be entitled to an honoured place as one who has been and is the worthy successor of the illustrious men who in the same field shed glory on Italy in the past.

## HUMAN PIONEERS.

DANTE ALIGHIERI.

Some few, very few figures stand out against the horizon of time, ever assuming loftier proportions as years roll on, generations succeed generations. Dwarfed whilst living amongst high born, high placed contemporaries, they ever grow in men's minds and

men's souls whilst their supposed great superiors return to dust and oblivion.

Thus among poets, the idealisers of the present, the visualisers of the future, Homer, myth or man, among Greeks, Virgil among Romans, Shakespeare among Anglo-Saxons, Goethe among Teutons, Dante among Italians are suns that never set. Their thought is human, their teachings world wide, as from the lofty height of their genius they soar above the multitudes, unconscious of time or space!

Dante — the familiarity of Florentine speech shortening the original *Durante* — *Alighieri* was born in Florence of noble family at *Borgo degli Albizi* in the year 1265, born unto the world's scene in one of the most troublous times of the Italian Renaissance, when State against State, Republic against Republic, Party against Party, in the speedy shifting of scenes and events, raised each man's hand against his neighbour. Noble though they were, the *Alighieri* belonged to the *Guelfs*, in continual conflict with the *Ghibellines*, the two parties who disputed power and government in the Florentine Republic. So much so that Dante, when barely twenty five, fought in the stricken field at *Campaldino* against the rival party, enjoying then, not an earnest of the future, the sweets of victory.

Precocious in sentiment as in mind, when ten years of age he saw the daughter of *Folco Portinari*, *Beatrice*, conceived then for her the mystic passion that influenced his thoughts, sentiments and utterances, perhaps transformed the studious thinker into the Poet.

Deeply he delved into the lore of the Roman poets, of the moralists, of the philosophers, imbuing his mind with Aristotelic wisdom. The *scoliasts*, the fathers of the Church, natural sciences, nothing came amiss in his insatiable thirst for knowledge, of which his minor works and his great poem give ample evidence.

The entrancing vision of his boyhood and youth, *Beatrice*, married towards 1287 *Simone de Bardi*, closing her earthly career in June 1290, to live immortal in the Poet's soul, an embodiment of beauteous virtue for future generations.

Two years afterwards, deferring to the constant wishes and exhortations of family and friends, he married *Gemma Donati*, the

head of whose family, Corso Donati, was afterwards to become his constant enemy. It was a peaceful union, so far as one knows, had issue in several children, among whom a daughter Beatrix; but though he will have cared for his wife, though it is affirmed that he entertained an affection for two other women in later life, nothing obliterated from the poet's mind and heart the memory of Beatrix, the love of his youth.

Among the various guilds in which the able men of the city were parcelled out, he elected to join that of the apothecaries and took a notable part in public life, too notable for his prosperity or happiness. Between 1292 and 1297 he was sent ambassador to Naples and to other Republics in Tuscany, but matters were not to run smoothly for long. Towards the end of the century the dominating Guelf party split up into two factions, Whites and Blacks. The Blacks, headed by Corso Donati, had the support of the Pope Boniface the VIII who did his best to encourage discord and thus gain more complete ascendancy, whilst Dante was a follower of the Whites. At the time he had been elected one of the six governing priors of the Republic, and in defence of law and order the government condemned to temporary exile the heads of both Whites and Blacks, the Blacks more severely punished, for having come into open conflict and bloodshed within the town. The Blacks recurred to Rome; Dante as ambassador was sent to neutralise their efforts and plead the government cause in which he was successful. Again within a short time, when Charles of Valois, at the head of an army, crossed the Alps, he returns to Rome to avert any danger; but this time to find Pope and Prince leagued together, the latter invested with the mission of promoting peace in Florence. And so he did after a fashion, by entering the town, taking unto himself the power of Dictator and of proclaiming martial law. The Blacks then entered in force, together with the dictator passed judgment on the absent or fugitive priors, condemning them to perpetual exile and confiscation of their estates. The exiled Whites tried to gather head, collected an army, marched on Florence, were not only unable to force an entrance, but suffered utter collapse and defeat.

Dante's exile, his long exile, only to end with his life, thus began. First at Verona with Bartholomew della Scala, then at

Padua, then to the convent of the Avellana among the hills of the Tuscan Casentino, from thence to the Malaspina's in the Lunigiana and on to Lombardy, hoping, vainly hoping in the influence and power of the new Emperor Henry the VII to subjugate his native city. Afterwards Lucca, Ravenna, again with Can della Scala in Verona; then he took upon his shoulders the heavy pack, unsuccessfully striving, wandering in France, in England, in the Tyrol, to return again to Ravenna, exiled in all, in all despondent, even in hope, and there, at the age of fifty six, in September 1321, breathed his last.

Dante cannot be simply considered as a great poet, who gave a definite form to the Italian language, and with wealth of phantasy and images carries his readers on with him in his voyage through the three reigns—Hell, Purgatory and Heaven—ordained, he supposes, by the Almighty as the just outcome of man's earthly career. He is more, much more than that, otherwise he would not stand alone.

The power of genius, of piercing the clouds of the future and the hearts of men to reveal unto them their duty here below is the distinguishing characteristic separating him from his apparent equals. It inspires all his works in prose and poetry, welds them into one harmonic expression of thought: he is one, a powerful and tremendous unity.

The idea born in early years, confirmed in his weary pilgrimage through the many and various States into which a people of common origin, of common language, of common aims in life was split up, is the prophetic cry for Italian Unity, the prophetic vision of its consummation in the future.

Politically it transpires in the « De Monarchia »; philosophically in the « Convito », whilst the « Lingua volgare » illustrates it on behalf of Literature. Above all the great Poem, the « Divina Commedia » soars, raised on the wings of the ever present aspiration. Dante was and is the incarnation of our Fatherland; his poem elaborates a national Language, a national Philosophy, a national Poetry; linking real and ideal, heaven and earth, a national Faith!

Whilst among the three regions of the Comedy, in Hell he portrays human nature as it reveals itself in those semibarbarous

times, violent and heroic; in Purgatory the theme revolves on literature, fine arts, reigning sovereigns, laws and customs then prevalent; finally Paradise is devoted to Faith, religion as it was.

Above Popes, above Kings, poets and learned men, Dante stands, not only our national poet, the father of our tongue; he was the model patriot, the ardent reformer, the religious apostle, the Prophet of the Nation!

« Yes, truly, it is a great thing for a Nation that it get an articulate voice; that it produce a man who will speak forth melodiously what the heart of it means! Italy, for example, poor Italy lies dismembered, scattered asunder, not appearing in any protocol or treaty as a unity at all; yet the noble Italy is actually *one*. Italy produced its Dante, Italy can speak! » Carlyle: *on Heroes, Hero Worship, etc. The Hero as Poet*.

## LEONARDO DA VINCI.

Leonardo da Vinci, whose universal genius has left a deep furrow in the fields of both art and science, great as a painter, sculptor and musician, great as a mechanician, civil engineer and philosopher, scientist, and artist, was born at Vinci, a village on the Florentine hills, in 1452, out of wedlock, son of Catherine a peasant and a Florentine lawyer, who from the family estate took the name of Piero da Vinci. Though he was married several times, had from his wives numerous progeny, the father acknowledged his son, had him, as though a legitimate scion, properly brought up and properly educated among his other children. A youth of rare promise, physically attractive, charming in manners, he not only easily mastered all accomplishments, but gave proof of inexhaustible intellectual range and energy.

Drawing, modelling, music were among his first pursuits. Placed by his father with Andrea Verrocchio as master, in a few years he surpassed him as was acknowledged by the master himself, when obliged to compare with his own his pupil's part of

the work in Christ's Baptism, the fresco executed for the monks of Vallombrosa, now in the Royal Academy of Florence.

But not only in the fine arts, in painting, sculpture, music, even poetry, he stood unrivalled among his compeers; his faculty of observation, his thirst for knowledge, his aptitude in bringing it to bear on some practical pursuit, incited him to the mastering of exact science, to the explanation of many problems hitherto unsolved, to their application in surmounting the obstacles opposed by nature to man's well being. Encyclopedic genius, rival of Michelangelo and Raffaello in the fine arts, by them envied and persecuted, he proved himself at the same time superior to all the philosophers and scientists of his age.

His discoveries enlarged the domains of military art, practical and theoretical mechanics, hydraulics, astronomy, geometry, physics, natural science, anatomy and even music. He explains the theory of inclined plains, the centre of gravity in solids, as exemplified in the gravity of pyramids; in mechanics he calculates the effect of friction by means of a series of ingenious experiments; he demonstrates rationally the impossibility of perpetual motion, of squaring a circle. In hydraulics he is the first to found a theory of the wave motion, of the currents, of the singular forms of liquid strata, origin of so many important recent discoveries. Practically in canalising Lombardy he is the first to discover and adopt locks, without which no Panama canal could have been projected. In geology he is the first to direct his attention to fossil animals and plants, the first to propose a systematic division and classification of the animal kingdom. He applies the hydrometer in meteorology, invents a dinamometer to calculate machine power. He observes the weight, resistance, condensation of the air to explain the aerial ascent of matter and the cloud formation; as also he is supposed to have first determined the regular shapes and cohesion of sand on vibrating elastic surfaces, whereby preceding by three centuries Chladni. He studies the ways in which a man would be enabled to raise himself in the air, models aeroplanes, gives to the world many important anatomical and mechanical discoveries regarding the flight of birds.

Numerous are his theories and practical appliances for substituting mechanical to human work. He was the first to apply



alphabetical signs and those of + and — in algebra: he mastered geometry and profited by its application to mechanics, perspective and the theory of shadows. Long before Copernic he treats of the earth's motion, is the first to explain the bluish light of the moon and other curious optical illusions. A sound theory of light partly founded on the Camera Obscura, general principles on capillary action and diffraction, the first and most scientific notions and applications of the power of steam belong to his unrivalled genius! A century before Galileo and Bacon, whilst the learned sought no further than ancient lore, Leonardo applied the light of rational criticism and individual research, in almost every branch of science, to explain and utilise the phenomena of nature!

Leonardo was the first painter to recognise the play of light and shade in the appearance and beauty of animate and inanimate nature; the first to calculate their value in the various branches of art. Neither did he stop in his observations at mere superficial appearance: stamping the image of things on his brain, he went on untiringly to investigate their hidden laws and causes. It is no wonder if, notwithstanding continual importunate requests for artistic work from the most important princes and individuals of the day, his canvasses and other works of art should have been few compared with other artists and the favour by which he was surrounded.

If 1494 was, for instance, a momentous year in Italian politics, when Ludovico S'orza, Duke of Milan, intrigued with Charles the VIII of France, whereby bringing on successive invasions of Italy, it may give an adequate idea of Leonardo's life, since in that year he was for several months absent from Milan planning and directing extensive works for improving the irrigation and water ways of the adjacent Lomellina; he was carrying out at the same time, with his friend Donato Bramante, designs for improving and embellishing the Castle, the Ducal Palace; in between whiles he was working expeditiously at what proved to be his greatest painting, the « Last Supper », at the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie, recognised ever since as the typical and greatest representation of the solemn Biblical scene. Few other pictures are to be ascribed to his sixteen years residence in Milan, 1483-1496, but his canal and irrigation work last to the present day!

And so onward in his career. He settles in Florence, undertakes there a battle piece to adorn the Palazzo Vecchio, subsequently abandoned through an unsuccessful new process he essayed in encaustic, besides taking up and finishing the wonderful world famed portrait of Monna Lisa, the wife of Zanobi del Giocondo, known therefore as « La Gioconda ». Meanwhile he travels with Cesare Borgia through central Italy as his chief engineer. From Florence back again to Milan in 1511, from there to Rome, from Rome in 1514 to France honored guest of Francis the 1st at the Castle of Cloux near Amboise, enjoying a handsome pension. There on Easter Eve 1519, feeling near his end, he made his will and died on the subsequent 2<sup>nd</sup> of May.

In the splendid balance of his nature the powers he most cared to exercise ceased by degrees to be those of imaginative creation and became those of turning to human use the mastery gained over the forces of nature.

The man however who carried in his brain so many images of subtile beauty, as well as so much of the hidden science of the future, must have lived spiritually alone, though communicative, a genial companion, a generous and loyal friend, ready and eloquent of address, impressing all with whom he was brought into contact by the power and the charm of genius, inspiring fervent devotion and attachment in friends and pupils. Full of tenderness to animals, open handed in giving, not eager in getting, he stands alone in his century and for subsequent ones in the majesty of virtuous genius, conscious of its power, forgetful of self, striving for humanity.

## MICHELANGELO.

When one stands with reverent admiration before the gigantic figures immortalised in the « Universal Judgement » or the « Moses » imagination casts the author in the same mould, a man of thews and sinews, of noble, majestic proportions, in harmony with his marvellous creations. It is not so; besides being undersized Michelangelo was slightly hunchbacked. He is contemporary with

the revival of art, at the time of the Medicis, born in Florence in 1475, a descendent of the noble family of the Counts Canossa. He learnt drawing in the studio of the renowned Michael Ghirlandaio, but when Lorenzo dei Medici founded a school for sculpture and numbered him among the pupils, that art, in which he so soon excelled, became the prevailing passion of his life.

In those times men when born with talent, were not specialists, devoting their whole time and life in the practical or scientific opening up of one branch of knowledge; they ranged further afield, they broadened their intellect, instead of sharpening it, became on the whole bigger men than our up to date workers.

Though scientifically greatly inferior to Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo's pursuits, painter, poet, sculptor, engineer, architect, were not only various, but in each one he left undying tokens of his versatile genius.

In 1494 the Medicean star, that had long shone on art, sank below the horizon. Lorenzo's successor, Piero, through frivolous ill government exasperated the population who drove him from Florence. The young artist, known as a Medicean protégé, betook himself to Bologna where he executed a couple of statues for the Dominican Church and then, after a year's absence, was able to return to his native city, where he modelled his famous « sleeping Cupid ». It was sent to Rome, there exhibited as a recently discovered ancient Greek work of art, was universally admired, bought at a high price by Cardinal San Giorgio. The fraud was short lived, the author discovered and it greatly added to his budding reputation; so much so that the deceived purchaser, the Cardinal, in sincere admiration of the work and its author, called him to Rome (1496). From that moment, with an established reputation, his long life alternated between his native city and the great universal centre of religious art.

The Florentine administration decided to decorate the city with some colossal marble statues; a huge block had been worked upon by Simone di Fiesole, with the design of fashioning it into a giant, but he gave up, despairing at the giant task, beyond his artistic power. Michelangelo heard of it, came from Rome, took upon himself both mutilated marble and work: saw the way to

utilise the material in hand, and, shaping the stone according to his own design, evolved his David, affirmed by Vasari to be superior to any statue, ancient or modern, Greek or Latin!

The Mayor, Pier Soderini, not content with the work of Michelangelo's scalpel, was desirous to obtain also some from his brush; assigned him part of the great communal Hall in Palazzo Vecchio, Leonardo da Vinci had engaged to decorate. He thought out a subject bearing on the wars between Florence and Pisa, prepared the cartoons, greatly superior, said Benvenuto Cellini his scholar, to those of the Sistine Chapel. The work was not carried out, the cartoon in the bustling here and there soon destroyed, beyond some fragmentary particulars. The artist was then barely twenty nine, had already not only attained a preeminent position in art, but had revolutionised art itself, by the boldness of his conceptions, his religious fidelity to nature.

Julius the II<sup>nd</sup>, recently elevated to the Papal Chair, whose energetic martial nature resembled in no slight degree the fiery sculptor's, admiring his lofty conceptions, invited him to come to Rome, design and construct his future tomb. According to the sculptor's project it would have been the greatest monumental sepulchre in the world. Saint Peter's was modified and enlarged, attained its present artistic grandeur and beauty, to make room for it. But it was never completed; between one thing and another, more urgent work ordered by the Pope, jealous intrigues of architects and artists anxious to emerge, the enormous expense entailed by the four marble facades decorated with forty statues and bas reliefs in bronze, all conspired to monthly, yearly delay, until, after the death of Julius, and his successors Leo the X<sup>th</sup> and Adrian the VI<sup>th</sup>, Clemens the VII<sup>th</sup> arranged for the greatly reduced design that, with the immortal figure of Moses, adorns the church of Saint Peter in Vincoli in Rome.

Whilst the great artist was engaged on Julius's tomb, perhaps by Bramante's desire to remove a redoubtable rival from the architectural work in Saint Peter, he was called upon to paint the walls and the dome of the Sistine Chapel. Unable to refuse, though his heart was in the projected tomb, he shut himself up and in twenty months completed his admirable work of the Creation, in its twelve separate compartments. It was universally

admired and lauded by artists and all who saw it, soon afterwards to be capped by the greatest, most powerful fresco painting the world possesses, the Universal Judgement, began in 1534, not completed until 1541.

Michelangelo had more than once returned to Florence, planned and directed the fortifications on the surrounding hills, by the celebrated French military engineer, Vauban, subsequently visited and copied. He also completed the designs for the reconstruction of the mediæval Roman Capitol and the adjoining Piazza; constructed the Farnese Palace in Rome, perhaps, in its grand simplicity of design, the most perfect existing. In Florence he erected the Chapel of the Medici, with Lorenzo's and Julian's tombs and the celebrated recumbent statue of Night about which an admirer wrote the noted couplets:

*La notte che tu vedi in sì dolci atti  
Dormire, fu da un angelo scolpita  
In questo sasso; e benchè dorma, ha vita;  
Destala, se nol credi, e parleratti.*

In a free translation with this meaning:

*The night thou seest so sweetly sleeping  
Was by an angel (play on the word angelo)  
out of this stone enticed  
Should'st disbelieve, awake her, she'll speak.*

The artist patriot, alive to the woes his native city was undergoing, through malpractises and malgovernment, capped the verses admirably:

*Grato m'è il sonno e più l'esser di sasso  
Finchè il danno e la vergogna dura.  
Non veder, non sentir, m'è gran ventura;  
Perciò non mi destar; deh! parla basso.  
Blessed be sleep, nay more, to be of stone  
Whilst woe and shame prevail.  
To see not, to hear not, t'is heaven's own boon;  
Leave me to slumber; pray! raise not thy voice.*

He lived on in his hale old age, working untiringly at Saint Peter's, until his death, at 89, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 1564. He

was buried with much solemnity and great honours in the Church of the SS. Apostoli in Rome.

As his works attest, in art, in painting, sculpture, architecture, Michelangelo stands alone, has had no equal in ancient or in modern times. Energetic, occasionally to violence, susceptible to personal dignity up to the point of leaving Rome, betaking himself to Florence, never stirring until Julius, after repeated letters of entreaty, came all the way to Bologna to waylay his cherished artist, simply because the Pope had left unanswered two pressing requests for audience, the virtue of his character gained him universal respect and affection. He was good and charitable, courteous in manner, free of hand, modest, so modest as never to find complete satisfaction in his work, ever studying to better it: above all in sterling probity second to none. He was, as it were, one of those perfect diamonds, that, from time to time, are discovered among human clay, reflect lustre on all around and are without a flaw.

## GALILEO GALILEI.

Were it not for some not uninteresting details, it would be superfluous to summarise the life of the man who discovered and fixed definitely among acquired facts the earth's motion round the sun. In our times when an enquiring mind dares to set forth a scientific or philosophic theory in contradiction with the acknowledged enciclopedia, when he dares to assert a new truth upsetting the even balance of men's belief, a hue and cry rise up against the avowed heterodoxy; the bold asserter is persecuted, tortured, set on the rack of public opinion, whilst learned assemblies apply the thumb screws of scorn and ridicule; in Galileo's time moral torture was not forgotten, only physical supplemented it. The sun had revolved round the earth according to Holy Writ ever since creation, so had it been ordained by the Almighty; to whom dared question the undoubted sacred truth only a heretic's lot could be portioned out, confinement and torture, until he saw the error of his ways, humbly recanting. Thus

the sage who had put beyond doubt the law of gravitation, was arrested, cast into prison, would have been tortured, had not the executioner's presence, the fear of unsupportable pain, induced physical weakness to admit the fallacy he had pilloried and recognise the error of his ways in rectifying sacred superstitions. An old man, he made the confession wrung from him, but no sooner had the words left his mouth than the inner and stronger man could no longer bear suppression and exclaimed: « yet it is so; the earth does revolve round the sun »! The rack confirmed the bible's accuracy against trifling mathematical arguments!

Galileo's was a distinguished florentine family; distinguished for services rendered in public office, for scientific capacity and culture, not for riches. He was born in Pisa the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 1564, the day of Michelangelo's death, whilst his own in 1642 was contemporaneous with the birth of Isaac Newton. His father's limited means could not afford college education, he was obliged to study at home under a very indifferent master; fortunately the youth's desire and aptitude for knowledge took small account of the teacher's deficiencies, carried him on rapidly in classic literature, mathematics, music, drawing, besides a most remarkable aptitude in mechanical invention. Music was the favourite pursuit of his leisure hours; its charms would have decided him to embrace absolutely a musical career, had it not been for his father's opposition. They were a numerous family, their resources extremely limited; Galileo, the eldest son, was looked on to be an economical prop, to follow a more lucrative profession than that of a musician. Medicine was meted out to him; he was entered for the course in the University under his father's supervision, but soon neglected his medical books for his favourite geometry, to which he felt an irresistible calling. During his four years course at Pisa Euclid superseded Hippocrates! Whilst there he discovered the isochronism of the pendulum's swing with that of a lamp in the Dome, applied the pendulum as the measure of time, of the position and the limits of heavenly bodies in space.

He greatly acquired mathematical knowledge at first by listening behind the door whilst the Abbé Ricci gave lectures to his

pupils; afterwards mustering up courage to speak to the professor, the latter was struck by the extraordinary capacity displayed, interviewed his father, convinced him of his son's remarkable gifts, finally induced him to consent to his giving up medicine and following a mathematical career. His ability soon shone forth; at 26 he gained the mathematical professorship at Pisa, though for barely three years. His demonstration of the laws of gravity in the fall of solids, in opposition with the principles laid down by Aristoteles, arrayed against him envy and academic hostility. A high placed admirer, Guidobaldi, obtained for him the chair at Padova; he left Pisa, as he himself narrates, with all his worldly goods tied up in a bundle weighing somewhat about fifty pounds. There at Padova his excellency was fully appreciated, his lecture room crowded with students of all kinds and denominations, among them occasionally the great astronomer Tycho Brahe, with whom he established a lasting friendship.

Though teaching took up greatly his time, his studies and researches were not neglected in astronomy and physics. He constructed the first thermometer; then, amidst universal wonder and admiration, though some spoke of witchcraft, the telescope. The Venetian Senate, in recognition of the wonderful discovery, confirmed him professor for life with a thousand florins salary.

But whilst the senators thought only of the advantages to be reaped at sea by the new instrument, Galileo went further, looked upwards and applied it to the observation of celestial bodies. A new world was revealed; all past astronomical science revolutionised. The lunar structure, with its mountains similar to the earth, the stars and nebulae of the milky way, Jove's satellites, the stains on the sun's surface were revealed to the observer's rapt gaze. Within six months after constructing his first telescope, Galileo published his chart of the heavens, « Nuncius Sidereus » amidst the civilised world's admiration. The Medicis recalled him to Florence. Oblivious of the sorry treatment received at their hands in former times, when professor at Pisa, his love for his native town prompted his acceptance of their offer, though, again surrounded by envy, suspicion, persecution, it was for the embitterment of his life! At that period he gave himself up entirely to astronomy, seeking positive proof to establish the laws of si-



deral movement, that of the earth and other sidereal bodies within the range of his observation.

It was then he fixed and established his theory of the planetary movement round the sun, in opposition to all accepted notions up to that time; it was then on that theory, based on observation, on others ascribed to him, whether his or not, that discussion, violent and venomous arose. Scientists of the past, prelates wedded to dogma, ignorance embedded in a triple plate of stolid conviction, green eyed envy, bloated vanity together assailed the philosopher, who first among positivists based his convictions on facts revealed by scientific observation. The war waged hot, was carried to the Papal throne. Galileo was more than once in Rome, able to convince the Pope, defend his science from the blot of irreligion; but his enemies persevered. Notwithstanding his noble answer in a pamphlet called the *Examiner* (*Il Saggiatore*) a model of argument couched in masterly style, notwithstanding another work in Platonic form, where discussion arises between the upholders of the earth's motion and their adversary, the Pope's mind was in the end unfavourably biassed, Galileo was summoned to Rome before the bar of the Holy Inquisition, to there answer for the crime of heresy. Whilst confined in prison, brought before his judges, threatened with torture, without a hearing, beyond contemptuous indifference to the arguments he advanced in his favour, the recantation, an undying memorial, throughout centuries, of gross ignorance and religious intolerance, was insisted on and obtained.

After his imprisonment in the cells of the Inquisition in Rome, subsequent confinement in Siena, Galileo was allowed to return to his villa in Florence at Bellosguardo, afterwards to Arcetri, where among other distinguished visitors he received Milton and where, writing, reading and studying, he lived in peace until the day of his death aged 77 years.

### GIOVANNI BATTISTA VICO.

Giovanni Battista Vico was a philosopher and jurist born in Naples the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 1668 of humble parents, more humble means. From youth upwards — poor boy, content with scanty

fare, could easily attend the courses of the Neapolitan University — studious of history, literature, law and philosophy, for the greater part of his life he filled the chair of rhetoric in that seat of learning with the magnificent annual stipend of 100 scudi, that is to say dollars! Something, beyond this inadequate representative of bread and cheese even in the seventeenth century, he gained by the numerous learned works he published; but above all he lives in science for his great philosophical book « *Principii di una Scienza nuova* » (Principles of a new Science) published in a first edition in 1725, again in 1730 in a second, enlarged with many substantial additions.

When he died in 1744 at the ripe age of 76, having gained unto himself a european reputation, a fierce quarrel arose over his burial between the religious corporation in which he was inscribed and the University professors; both wanted a monopoly of the body, to follow it to the grave. Finally the canons of the cathedral together with the professors buried the corpse in the Church of the Gerolimini.

Besides his critical studies leading to the historical reconstruction of the Roman law, the merit is due to Vico of conceiving and setting forth the doctrine of progressive moral law in accordance with human evolution. God infused in man an innate sentiment of justice; its outcome the law which governs his actions, becomes more perfect as the march of civilisation proceeds onwards. It is not a given revelation, it is a continuous revelation in harmony with the expansion of man's soul. Vico's profound researches into the life of nations fathered his other famous doctrine of human civilisation proceeding in cycles, a series of ups and downs, much as the ascent of a mountain is accomplished by following the track of hills and dales grading upwards.

## ALESSANDRO VOLTA.

Born in Como 18<sup>th</sup> February 1745 of noble family. The pioneer the greatest in electric science, he began his career as professor of Physics in his native town. He removed to Pavia,

undertaking the same professorship in 1779; he there for over thirty years taught and worked, giving to the world the greatest of modern inventions, the electric battery (the voltaic pile), building up for himself undying fame.

Struck with the mysterious power of electricity, the greater part of his time and vast intelligence were devoted to penetrating the secrets of its control and origin. After constructing the electrometer and the electro-condenser, he invented the electric battery, undoubtedly the base in physical and chemical science of as many discoveries as the telescope in astronomy and the microscope in natural history. He lives undying in Electricity: its measure is *Volts!*

His extraordinary scientific attainments gained him universal recognition and honours. In 1791 he received the Copley medal discerned to him by the London Royal Society; in 1801 Napoleon the 1<sup>st</sup> called him to Paris, admired his experiments and had a medal struck in his honour, creating him also Senator of the Kingdom of Lombardy; in 1815 he was invested with the Directorship of the philosophical Faculty in Padua by the Emperor of Austria. He held it until 1819 when he resigned, settled again in his native Como where he died on March the 5<sup>th</sup> 1827.

## GIUSEPPE VERDI.

Going back to the first musical methodic organisation, with Guilo d'Arezzo, following onwards the gradual national development, evoking the shades of Palestrina and Porpora, who raised on high, in honour of religion, human song, of Monteverde and Lulli who first conceived the musical drama, of the old masters who inspired Haydn, Mozart, the immediate predecessors and masters of Beethoven, one could trace the Italian primate in both vocal and instrumental music. Arising in the land of song, it crosses frontiers, seas, mountains, to spread throughout the globe. Though in the noblest of arts, more than any other inspiring men's souls with lofty sentiments, we could prove through all time our country's ascendant, we prefer selecting a single modern, the most modern example.

Not far from Parma, a handsome and lively city in central Italy, not far from Correggio, whose name has gone down to posterity with Antonio Allegri, the great painter born there, is a very small village, called Roncole, where a worthy man gained a modest living by keeping a tavern. It was a very humble place; no black coated waiters, the customers were served by the shirtsleeved innkeeper and his son, a small well grown lad about nine.

The youngster ran errands, took orders, went obediently here and there as occasion required, without playing truant; but there was one temptation beyond his powers of resistance. When a barrel organ, a strolling fiddler, or a man with a concertina came in sight, the boy's activity was suspended. However pitiful the sounds, he was there listening with all his ears, transforming them into a world of harmony created within the innermost recesses of his being. He was willing, ever ready to work, never bored his father with unreasonable whims, but stubbornly repeated always the same prayer: please Papa let me learn music! A poor country innkeeper, whose ideas ranged over the limited field of bargaining for wine, bread and meat, could hardly enter into artistic dreams; he puffed, puffed, held out for a long time; at last the boy's pertinacity and loveableness gained the day. A very old spinet adorned the vicarage, the vicar, whose musical appreciation tallied with that of the innkeeper, made over to the latter, for a few francs, the venerable instrument; a clever repairer was induced to put it in order; thus Giuseppe Verdi made the first step in his glorious career.

Besides attending at the inn he had attained the age when children go to school, so little available time was left on his hands for other pursuits; but instead of joining his schoolfellows in their sports, every available moment was devoted to mastering the spinet's technicalities. The vicar, struck by the boy's precocious perseverance, added to his delight by allowing him to practise on the village organ; and there he sat, day after day, hardly reaching the keys and stops, drinking in visions called forth by the majestic swelling chords.

The matter went further. The boy's marked musical gifts travelled beyond his native village; a grocer of the neighbouring township of Busseto, who supplied Verdi's father with groceries

and was an enthusiastic musical amateur, appreciating the boy's natural gifts, offered to provide for his general and musical education, at school and in his own home. The father, now more fully alive to his son's exceptional talent, accepted the offer. Giuseppe Verdi was lodged and boarded by a Busseto shoemaker for a franc a day, whilst Bareggi, the grocer, provided at home the musical education. The mischief was that the worthy man's daughter had also musical proclivities; the growing boy and girl studied together, played together, ended, when the stripling had shot up into a young man in deeply loving each other!

Young Verdi, meanwhile, gave evermore proofs of his musical talent; he wrote, among other compositions, symphonies for the municipal band; directed them himself, amidst enthusiastic applause. Bareggi, now further confirmed in his opinion as to the singular vocation displayed by his protégé, arranged for his removal to Milan, the biggest musical centre in Italy. As sometimes happens when learned doctors sit in council, for a technical objection, raised by one of the pundits, his age being then nineteen, he was not admitted to the Conservatory; perhaps by a lucky turn of fortune's wheel studied instead with the conductor of the musical season at the Scala, Milan's renowned theatre; and, on, behind the scenes, was initiated into the detail of musical life, the petty intrigues he never stooped to use, the mysteries of the musical drama.

He was still a young, a very young fellow, called the « *Maestrino* » a kind of understudy, when at the Philharmonic, Haydn's « *Creation* » having been announced, the director's illness obliged the stop gap to take his place without warning; he concerted and directed triumphantly the noble composition, though in the orchestra sat a majority of amateurs!

Meanwhile he was giving his attention to the musical drama, had come across a « *libretto* » suited to his capabilities, was able to induce a friendly manager to put his work on the stage before the public. The new opera, by the brand new composer « *Hubert Count of S. Boniface* » long since forgotten, was an undoubted success, revealed exceptional talent for lyrical drama, gained heaps of laurels and very scarce profits to the youthful author.

It was enough to encourage him, induce him to avow his

love for Bareggi's daughter to the father, obtain his consent to their marriage. The young couple settled in Milan, the future scene of Verdi's labour; two children quickly graced the union, but, alas! misfortune, in its most atrocious form, was impending: in one fell swoop death descended on the house; Verdi became a childless widower!

Previously he had entered into an engagement to write a comic Opera « *Il Regno di un Giorno* » (A Day's Reign), had already begun; amidst blinding tears, at his solitary hearth, he completed the score! Is it to be wondered at if the « *vis comica* » was not at call, if the opera turned out a most signal failure?!

The public hissed, the amiable critics changed the title from « *A Day's Reign* » to « *A Night's Downfall* », the unfortunate composer, torn by grief, despairing of his own powers, threw everything to the winds, fled from Milan, took refuge in Busseto, under his father in law's friendly roof. There he remained, woe begone, deaf to all entreaties or encouragements, until the manager of the Scala, still entertaining great confidence in his lyrical powers, sent him the « *libretto* » of « *Nabucco* ». Verdi was at last induced to read it, was taken with the plot, its musical capabilities; it followed him about, fanned the smouldering embers of his enthralling passion, he began the score, entirely taken up, worked on, completed and sent it to the friendly manager, who, warmly approving, put it on the stage without loss of time. « *Nabucco* » was received with enthusiasm; Verdi's dramatic instinct had served him well; the opera lives on the scenes even today. Thence onwards it was a career from one success to another, until the Busseto lad's name became a byword throughout the world. « *I Lombardi* », « *Ernani* », « *I Due Foscari* », « *Macbeth* », « *I Masnadieri* », « *Luisa Miller* », « *Il Trovatore* », « *La Traviata* », « *I Vespri Siciliani* », « *L'Araldo* » unfavourably received and since forgotten, « *Il Ballo in Maschera* », « *La Forza del Destino* », « *Don Carlos* », « *Aida* », « *Simone Boccanegra* », « *Othello* », and « *Falstaff* » are the milestones marking the most remarkable operatic career on record. Remarkable also in another sense. Donizetti, Bellini, Mercadante, the predecessors of Verdi, including Rossini, were slaves to the musical canons embraced in

youth, he no; his lyrical intelligence expanded with the times, was able to assimilate all that tended to perfect the lyrical drama, as the greater part due to the most subordinate orchestra of past times in depicting place, circumstance, the various passions of the personages engaged in the drama. Roughly, this musical evolution that time accomplished in the master's brain, can be traced clearly by comparing the *Traviata* with *Don Carlos*, then with *Aida* and lastly with *Othello*, the most perfect of lyrical dramas in its tragical expression, where every note sung or played conveys the sentiments inspiring Shakespeare's immortal tragedy.

An artist to the backbone, an energetic man with bone, muscle and a will of his own, a patriot alive to his country's aims and welfare, moving his fellow citizens to enthusiasm by his lyrical appeals, as in « *Ernani* », « *I Lombardi* », « *La Battaglia di Legnano* », his first years surroundings had sunk deep into his being, endowed him with devotion to country life, country pursuits, a desire to flee from the artificial conventions of towns and polite society. When money began to flow in, he put by, put by until he was able to buy a small house with a few fields at S. Agata, not far from his native place, enlarging the estate by buying land around when funds were available. There, in his late years, he lived, working, writing, farming, seeing little company, leaving for town life only when one of his new operas was put upon the stage. He had been elected member of the House of Commons, on conservative lines, follower and admirer of Cavour, was promoted to the Senate later on, frequented neither House, being wont to observe that « one lost a lot of time in discussing and squabbling without coming to any tangible result ».

He looked to nature for inspiration, to nature he evermore turned in his later years; among nature's scenes, in the tranquillity of his country home, to the last preserving the exceptional gifts of genius, he expired in the year 1901, aged 88.

He left his considerable fortune entirely for the foundation of a home for old impoverished singers, who after having gained their living by singing his music, in their barren old age bless his name in his Home!

## GUGLIELMO MARCONI.

The inventor of undoubtedly the greatest modern invention, or rather application of science, annihilating space in human communication throughout the globe; the man who harnessed Hertz's electric waves to his ear, so as to carry messages across mountains and oceans, regardless of space, at lightning's speed, was born at Griffone, near Bologna, the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1874. After going through the usual course of secondary studies, scientific practical applications specially appealed to his mental poise, above all electricity, its power, boundless power, its manifold possibilities, attracted his spirit and attention.

Mastered Hertz's theory, the parallelism of electricity and light, their course through infinite space, it appeared to him obvious that if the sun's heat and light, electric and magnetic perturbations, the stars's light, reach us across infinite distances, carried by some definite law; applying the law, adopting the same processes, we ought to be able to launch electricity into space from the earth, directing it to any given point.

Once the idea had become a settled conviction, the question arose, no mean one, how to prove it practically, to place it in the reign of facts. He set to work quietly by himself in the country, on his father's farm, carried out a series of experiments, was able after a time, in 1895, to prove the accuracy of his theory, by succeeding in transmitting wireless signals from one place to another at a relatively considerable distance. He worked on, continued perfecting his apparatus; then completely satisfied as to the results obtained, in order to enter on a wider field, dispose of more considerable means, industrialise his discovery, he betook himself to England, his mother's birthplace; there he was able to interest the direction of the telegraph in his work, especially Sir W. Preece, the well known electrician. Experiments were made in 1897 in the Bristol Channel between Lavernock and Brean Down, across the Channel, a distance of nine miles. On the invitation of the Italian Government, Marconi went to Rome, gave a series of experiments at the Quirinal before the King and



Queen and high government officials, subsequently at Spezia renewing the practical test most successfully on board of two Italian battleships. The government recognising the great value of the invention conferred on the inventor the honour of Knighthood.

In the same year Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company was established; in 1899 a number of British warships were equipped with the Marconi apparatus; in 1902 Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, was put in communication with the Cornwall Station at Poldhu; in October 1903 communication was established between the warship *Lucania*, with Marconi on board, and the stations at Glace Bay, Canada, Poldhu, Britain.

Marconi's work has been recognised by many governments and seats of learning. By the King of Italy and the Zar of Russia he has been decorated, by the former elevated to the dignity of Senator. He is honorary Doctor of many Universities, including Oxford, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Liverpool, Pennsylvania, beside having received the freedom of the principal Italian cities. In 1909 he obtained the highest distinction within reach of any scientist, the Nobel Prize for Physics.

Though the Company worked Marconi's system from an industrial point of view, established branch Companies in America and most European countries, the inventor reserved the right of allowing Italy's government free use of his invention for all public purposes; he himself superintended the construction of a central station at Coltano in direct communication with the Royal Navy and all Italy's political representatives abroad.

From perfection to perfection, the illustrious discoverer has announced not distant the time when not only telegraphic but telephonic messages will be wirelessly conveyed to any distance, nor does he despair in future of electric energy itself of high potentiality being carried silently, invisibly, at lightning speed and distributed throughout space. His vigorous manhood allows the persuasion that what his inventive genius has hitherto accomplished may be an earnest of the benefits he may be allowed to confer on humanity in the future.

## REBIRTH.

Young Italy, rejuvenated Italy owes her reconstruction, unity, station among nations principally to the efforts of the four men whose features are here reproduced, in the chronological order of their work: the « *Apostle* », Giuseppe Mazzini, the « *Warrior* », Giuseppe Garibaldi, the « *King* », Victor Emmanuel the II<sup>nd</sup>, the « *Statesman* », Camillo Cavour.

Swayed by despots and petty sovereigns and divided into seven different States, Piedmont, Lombardo-Venetian Provinces, Tuscany, the Papal States, the Duchy of Modena, the Duchy of Parma, the Two Sicilies (Neapolitan provinces and Sicily), the population sluggishly vegetated and despaired; until roused and called into new life and hope by the untiring efforts of the two former, by the prudent audacity of the two latter.

Changes had before occurred. During the sway of the French Republic of 1789 and the subsequent Empire of Napoleon, Italy had been differently portioned out: Murat was King of the Two Sicilies; Piedmont as before under its reigning House of Savoy; the rest of the country split up into the Cis-Alpine and Trans-Alpine Republics, so called Republics, but under the protection and virtually under the sway of France. So it was for the few years in which the meteor like power of Napoleon governed the world, to return as before when his star sunk for ever below the horizon.

### JOSEPH MAZZINI, *the Apostle.*

And then, although in accordance with the revolutionary party in France, through the secret Society of the « *Carbonari* », a partial unsuccessful rising, nipped in the bud, was attempted in Turin in 1821, in which Carlo Alberto, the future sovereign of Piedmont, was implicated, the spirit of unity, the many attempts to overthrow foreign and domestic tyranny date from

when Giuseppe Mazzini, with his continual propaganda, his preaching the fiery cross, his continual conspirations and partial attempts at revolt and revolution, infused new blood, new enterprise, new hope in the rising generation. Hardly a year passed, from his first attempt in Savoy in 1831 until the general revolution of 1848, the heroic defences of the Roman and Venetian Republics in 1849, and onwards up to the entrance of the Italian Army in Rome in 1870, finally Capital of United Italy, in which some conspiracy was not organised, some partial rising attempted through his untiring work, unflagging spirit.

Joseph Mazzini was born in Genoa the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1805. His father was a well known physician, with an extensive practise, professor also, at the Genoese University, of medical science; his mother, Maria, a saintly woman. Like his father attached to religion, though concentrating her field of action to home events, her mind was broad, capable and desirous of a wider range of thought, as the lifelong correspondence between an exiled son and a mother bound up in his welfare amply shows.

Young Mazzini at a very early age gave proof of his remarkable intelligence and desire to follow the trend of human thought by his application to study, his love of reading, his indifference to those field sports so dear to boyhood. Spare, agile, of middle height, he possessed both a fascinating address and figure, with an oval sallow face, in which a most wonderful pair of liquid dark brown eyes, sparkling or melting, held under their spell all those with whom he came in contact.

After studying at home, with a worthy priest, he followed the usual curriculum, entering the university as a student of law. About law as trade or profession he cared very little; early inspired by his profound love and reverence for Dante, he roved in other fields, ranging over literature, poetry and philosophy to understand the higher moral law that governs nature, man and nations, endows the soul with an everlasting thirst for justice, liberty and progress.

His « via crucis » began early. Loved and trusted by his fellow students, he organised a conspiracy to free Genoa and Liguria from the despotic monarchy of King Charles Felix, to declare a Republic, extend the agitation and revolution throughout

Lombardy, overthrow the Austrian rule. Of course the secret leaked out, became known to the police; several among the conspirators were arrested and thrown into prison. One of Mazzini's most cherished and intimate friends, Lorenzo Ruffini, fearing to reveal under torture the names of his companions, divided his arteries with a jagged piece of glass, dying in a pool of his own blood. His fears were not altogether unfounded, since the ways and means of absolute monarchs in those times did not exclude torture of all kinds, moral and physical!

The soul of the movement, through information filtered to his father by a friend of his, had time to escape to Marseilles. There he lived, in contact with the greatest amongst the advanced French patriots, the Abbé Lamennais, Georges Sand, Godfrey Cavai\_nae, Louis Blanc, Ledru-Rollin among others, working with his fellow emigrants, corresponding with fellow spirits at home, gathering together the elements, in a new association « Giovane Italia » (Young Italy) for another attempt for liberty, that took place in Savoy in 1834, with great hopes of success, dashed to the ground by the traitorous conduct of the military head, General Ramorino, who after joining the expedition and accepting pay, failed with his men at the last moment. The few others who raised the banner of revolt were arrested; Mazzini imprisoned in the fortress of Savona, tried, sentenced to death, commuted into perpetual exile. He betook himself to Switzerland, shaken by the disaster, the discredit thrown on the « Giovane Italia »; but after a period of most atrocious doubt, regained unquenched faith in the cause to which he had devoted his life.

Besides literary labour, always bearing in mind his country's cause and bringing it to bear on his work, he recommenced the patient struggle for liberty. Principally through the pressure brought to bear on the central Swiss government by the French and Austrian ambassadors, together with several faithful friends, though he had become popular and loved in the Canton where he resided, he was exiled from Switzerland on the charge of plotting against the peace of friendly powers.

All Europe was thus closed to him, with the exception of free England; he betook himself to London, definitively there established his residence until he returned to Italy, an unwelcome

guest, still under the ban of proscription, in 1870 when Italian unity was sealed by the acquisition of its Capital, Rome.

Soul of the general rising in 1848, ending in the unhappy defeat of Charles Albert at Novara, Triumvir of the Roman Republic in 1849, when the Eternal City heroically resisted for over three months against the siege of three different armies; paving the way for Garibaldi, by means of his friends, in his conquest of Southern Italy in 60 from the thrall of the Bourbons; again in 1866 cooperating with him in raising his volunteer army, that contributed by its victories to that campaign, ending in the annexation of the Venetian provinces to Italy; again cooperating with him in the attempt in 1867 to acquire Rome to Italy: his unquenchable ardour flogged the weaker or more calculating spirits to attempt and accomplish, when they would more gladly have sat still and temporised.

With 1870 his work of conspiracy directed to unity came to an end; that of educating, of teaching the nation its duty of accomplishing a new human mission of civilisation, coming to life a third time in world's history, lasted until the day of his death in Pisa the 10<sup>th</sup> March 1872.

Joseph Mazzini was not only a model patriot, a writer also of great literary talent, of which he left proofs in his contributions, in English, French and Italian, to the principal reviews of those countries, he was also an eminent philosopher. His educational work, the « Duties of Man » (*I Doveri dell'Uomo*), published in most european languages, is the most perfect manual of education existing. Based on the axiom that God is God, Humanity the interpreter of his Law here below, in separate chapters it defines man's duty in every walk of life. His prophetic vision of future events, successively verified is marvellous. In the year 1852 he published a pamphlet on Europe's political future in which all that has been accomplished in our times, all that will in brief be accomplished, is clearly and definitely mapped out. Italian and German unity, the rise of the southern Slavs, their constitution into nationalities, together with the Roumanian or Daco-Roman nation; the decay of Turkey, of the Austrian Empire are all foreseen, foretold with marvellous accuracy.

Seer and Apostle, Joseph Mazzini's figure ever grows, as succeeding generations are able to appreciate all the virtues emanating from his genius.

### GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI, *the Knight.*

A true knight he was, stamped on the pattern of older times. One can liken him to Lohengrin, called from the Round Table to succour Elsa the maiden in despair; only Garibaldi's maiden in despair was Liberty! Wherever and whenever she called, in either hemisphere, the blond warrior's sword flew from its scabbard, leading her henchmen to victory. His life is one of continual adventure, privation and sacrifice, devoted entirely to his country, Italy, to his Goddess, Liberty. Again, in valour, abnegation, simple life, he was the worthy successor of his great ancestor Cincinnatus.

Born in Nice the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1807, his father, captain and owner of a small ship, as his father before him, would have saved the boy from the dangers and hardships of the sea, by bringing him up to polite learning and land craft of some kind, had not his son taken very early the matter into his own hands. When quite a slip of a boy he induced several of his schoolfellows to join with him in laying hands on a boat, cribbing provisions at home and, with some fishing tackle, putting out to sea on a cruise of adventure and discovery on their own account! The alarmed parents lost no time in giving chase on a faster boat, came up with the hardy adventurers, brought them back to land and those corporal chastisements worthy of the exploit. The upshot was that young Garibaldi's vocation was no longer questioned; his father made him over to an old friend, the captain of a brig; henceforth he studied life, men, winds and waves, the mysteries of hard knocks and how to bear them, outside books, within the narrow limits of a merchantman's deck!

Yet that was his element. A proof of undaunted courage he gave before embarking, whilst roving with a school fellow, with some excuse of a gun for the slaughter of small birds. They came within hail of one of those deep ponds used for the steeping

of hemp; on its bank a woman was washing clothes; in some way or other, her foot slipped, she lost her balance, fell into the water, shrieking! Young Garibaldi's friend recchoed her shrieks, rushing across the fields and shouting for help; not so the other boy. Without a thought for self, for the danger and difficulty of the task, he plunged into the water, caught the woman by the clothes, some way or other dragged her to land, saved her from drowning! For a youngster about eleven it was not a bad beginning on the career of bravery.

The same happened again on board ship, when older he had attained promotion to officership, was rigged out in store clothes, ready to go ashore and have a good time at Marseilles. On landing he heard a noise, saw a crowd gesticulating and shouting; a man belonging to one of the neighbouring ships had fallen over board, knew nothing of swimming, was in imminent danger of drowning. Everyone, in the highest pitched of tones was giving advice and begging the unlucky wight to keep his head above water. Garibaldi, without a thought, even for that holiday suit, infinitely more precious to him than his every day skin, leaped into the water, had the Frenchman by the hair of his head, towed him to land, amidst universal applause and blessings, that could not replace the spoiled clothes, though no doubt they warmed his young heart.

Lieutenant or captain he cruised for many years on the ocean, at the will of cargo, ship owners and shipping agents, more especially in the South American trade. Of course his patriotic feelings shaped early, like all else, towards action; his nature willed it so. He joined in Marseilles the secret association « Young Italy » formed by Mazzini, became probably at the same time a mason, of which order for some years he was in Italy Grand Master. It was not unnatural, considering the times, though hardly a pleasant surprise, to read in a Marseilles paper of a trial having taken place in which sundry conspirators were tried, among others Joseph Garibaldi in his absence, a fortunate absence, condemned to death! It was equivalent to putting an end to his career as captain touching at French or Italian ports. He repaired to Rio Janeiro, found there congenial spirits and compatriots, among others Rossetti; offered his services to the

Republic of Rio Grande, then risen in rebellion against the Argentine Confederation ruled despotically with a rod of iron by Rosas; was gladly accepted. His scene of strife and action was then and for some years on the Plata, where he struck weighty blows at fearful odds for liberty; either, in command of a so called fleet of a few sorry boats, otherwise, when occasion served, landing and harrying the enemy's country. On one incident a few words of illustration may not be amiss. He was against a shed with a few companions, repairing and caulking one of their boats; on a sudden, whilst at work, they were suddenly surprised by a hundred and fifty of their enemies, who had watched them, rejoiced at the opportunity to get rid of so redoubtable an enemy, since redoubtable he had made himself throughout the country. Garibaldi, with lightning speed drew his men into the shed, barricaded the doors, began shooting from loopholes and windows, singing aloud at the top of their voices the national hymn to deceive or attempt to deceive the enemy as to the miserable scarcity of their number; so on from morn to eve, until the 150, who were not the 300 of the Thermopilae, worn out by unavailing efforts, discouraged and unhopeful to force the position, retreated, carrying with them their dead and wounded: 14 all told, against 150! Big odds, but the 14 had Garibaldi as Leader!

So on through hundreds of incidents or similar episodes by land and water, now carrying all before him, now ragged and worn, tracked by superior numbers as a wild beast to his lair. Among such scenes he met the companion of his life, his faithful companion, Anita. Met her by chance, though for both it was as if some superior decree from on high had ordained their meeting; it was love irresistible, love at first sight! She followed her mate, shared his lot, always at his side in hardship or danger, even unto the day of her death, in the swamps of Ravenna, wearied and worn out, whilst fleeing from Rome in 1849, marked down by the Austrian troops.

During the long siege of Montevideo, Garibaldi was in command of the Italian Legion, above all others distinguished for its valour. As soon as the first news of Italian risings towards the end of 1847 reached South America, Garibaldi called together the willing members of his legion, begged and borrowed funds



to charter a vessel, embarked for Italy to offer the legion's services for its country's independence. The staid uniformed Piedmontese Generals in command of Charles Albert's army were not delighted at the sight of these red shirted, long haired, awry bearded warriors, so completely in contrast with their starched pragmatic appearance and discipline. The hero was treated to plenty of cold shoulder. At last the Milanese provisional Government deigned to accept the wild men's services. They were preparing for action when Milan capitulated, after Charles Albert's defeat and they repaired to Rome, to illustrate their valour in its glorious defence.

Fugitive and exiled afterwards, our hero repairs again to America, to the adventurous life as of yore, so adventurous and disastrous as to oblige him, all else failing, to become for no short time a journeyman in a diminutive candle factory at Staten Island.

At last, in 1859 he was not forgotten; was recalled by the Piedmontese Government to aid in the war against Austria; was placed in command of a special independent corps, the Alpine Sharpshooters, and as usual, with rusty old smoothbores for arms, was victorious against the Tyrolese rifles.

In 1860, at the head of nearly a thousand volunteers, who donned the red shirt, he takes command of an expedition against the Kingdom of the Bourbons in Southern Italy, unsanctioned and unassisted by the Italian Government. Lands at Marsala, defeats the Neapolitan troops, enters into Palermo amongst Sicilian enthusiasm, crosses the Straits of Messina, lands in Calabria, again overcomes all resistance, marches into Naples, received in triumph and, Dictator of the southern half of Italy, makes it over to Victor Emmanuel at Teano, retiring to his Isle of Caprera, to lead the solitary life of the small farmer, taking with him, his share of the booty, a bag of beans bought with his own money for his frugal table! In 1862 he again headed an expedition for freeing the Roman provinces; Italian troops opposed his advance; as a reward for his past services and good intentions he received a bullet in his ankle, before commanding his volunteers to cease any resistance and put an end to further fraternal bloodshed.

In 1866, at the head of his volunteers in the Tyrol, he was the only one to secure at Bezzecca a victory to the Italian arms. In 1867 he mustered again his men; Rome belonged to Italy, his dearest wish was to add that precious jewel to her diadem. At Mentana, a short distance from the then frontier of the Roman States, he was met by the French troops occupying Rome for the Papal defence. They vaunted then the wonderful efficacy of the new Chassepot rifle, so soon to sink into insignificance when compared with the Prussian needle gun. Anyways superior numbers and superior arms enabled them easily to oblige the volunteers to retreat; the Italian army stood by, a passive spectator, bound in the liens of Diplomacy.

The General returned to his solitary Isle of Caprera until 1870, when Napoleon overthrown at Sedan, the national defence organised by a popular Government, forgetful of 1867, mindful only of his devotion to liberty, he called on his volunteers, crossed the frontier, offering succour to invaded France. With his headquarters at Dijon, here anew he was the only general who secured victory and resistance against the Prussian arms.

This last exploit seals his military career. Afflicted with rheumatism and arthrites he still found time and vigour to participate in his country's doings, devoted much attention to save Rome and the Campagna from frequent inundations by the deviation of the Tiber, reviewed and recast his memoirs, took more active part in masonic work as Grand Master of the Order. Member of Parliament, his attendance was rare, only on special occasions when some noxious measure was to be opposed, some noble cause supported.

In 1876 the lamp that had cast such refulgent light throughout the world flickered and went out; Garibaldi was no longer in the land of the living. His will, worthy of his temperament, was to cremate his body, cast the ashes on the rocks of Caprera at the mercy of heaven's winds, to return unto the living universe of matter; man's record is in his life, his deeds, not in his death and fleshy envelope. So it is. His heirs, regardful too much of the nation's desires, too little of the will expressed, buried his corpse at Caprera. There among the rocks it slumbers and decays, whilst the immortal radiant figure arises on high and lives in history.

## VICTOR EMMANUEL II, *the King.*

Short, thickset, somewhat corpulent, with heavy moustaches reaching to the ear, long bushy imperial, tilted nose, prominent eyes, dressed in a velveteen shooting coat, the King could easily be taken for a corporal of the zouaves in mufti, as the French troops lovingly named him, when he led the zouaves in a desperate charge on the battlefield of Palestro.

He ascended the throne in grievous times when his father, Charles Albert, left him the cares of kingship, the woes of concluding a humiliating peace with Austria, triumphant Austria, in which part of his dominion was subjected to a foreign garrison. He could have obtained infinitely better terms had he consented to abolish the constitutional charter and hand and glove, adopt Austrian ways, Austrian policy. He stubbornly refused; rather fight to the last, until not a man is left, than deprive his subjects of the liberties granted by his father; betake himself elsewhere rather than cancel the Italian future by his father foreshadowed: uphold the tricolor, the national colours whilst force and breath remained in his body!

So he submitted; for six years his care was to govern justly, to reorganise and strengthen his army; then the first occasion arose. Together with the Statesman Cavour, he saw a first opportunity of joining hands with the western powers by taking part in the Crimean war. Ten thousand picked men joined the allies, distinguished themselves against greatly superior numbers at the battle of the Cernaia and the siege of Balaclava. Piedmont thereby, notwithstanding Austria's violent opposition, was admitted among the powers assembled in Congress at Paris in 1856, taking her part in the decisions and pleading efficaciously Italian rights. The King's subsequent visits to Paris in the following year, to London in the next, received with friendly hospitality by the populations and by Emperor Napoleon and Queen Victoria, increased his prestige abroad, were as a setting to his kinglike and statesmanlike endowments.

The judicious policy followed, with his sanction, by Cavour, induced Austria in 1859 to declare war against Piedmont, thus bringing into the field France her recent ally. French and Italians were together victorious; the Austrian rout was complete; peace declared at Villafranca. The Kingdom of Piedmont became that of Italy through the annexation of Lombardy, together with Tuscany, Parma, Modena, Bologna. States who in a series of popular risings, when no longer supported by Austrian power, deposed their various small despots by unanimous popular vote, annexed their territories to new Italy under the sceptre of Victor Emmanuel.

Though aware of Garibaldi's descent on Sicily in 1860, expediency suggested apparent ignorance and no interference; the venture if successful, was a further step towards unity, otherwise left things unaltered, beyond the fate of some hundred generous youths. Success attended the modern Argonauts; nearly one half of Italy was annexed at the meeting between Garibaldi and the King at Teano.

Notwithstanding Victor Emmanuel's valour, that of his son Humbert, in 1866 the Italian army was worsted at Custoza, a defeat neutralised by the German successes, whereby the war gained to Italy the Venetian provinces. In the same way the French defeat in 1870 enabled Italy to enter Rome, take possession of her Capital.

Though utterly averse to public ceremonial, never so happy as when, shouldering his gun, he was able to roam about the country, more than once trenching on the hospitality of small farmers or peasants, afterwards astounded to know that the burly sportsman, their homely guest, was the King, still his intuitive judgment in all matters appertaining to the country was unerring, his boldness far greater than that of his ministers, whom he directed and kept in hand, with a word here, a direct order there, when any important political step was to be taken.

His people had coined for their King the loving soubriquet of the « Re Galantuomo » (the honest King) and he deserved it. His honesty is especially refulgent when called upon to decide questions where his inclination clashed with his constitutional duty.

Long friendship and relationship with Louis Napoleon, grati

tude for benefits received, impelled him in 1870 to place Italy's military power at France's disposal; his ministers, gauging correctly public opinion, the relative forces opposed, were strongly against all intervention. Long and warm discussions ensued, but when the King was convinced that he constitutionally ought not to go against the formal opinion of the country's parliamentary representatives, he gave in, wisely gave in, as the sequel showed.

A sincere and devout catholic, also a friendly reverent admirer of Pope Pius IX, when 1870 came on he addressed a letter to His Holiness begging him to accept in respectful friendship Italian military aid and protection. The Pontif's reply was not only negative, but threatened excommunication for whomsoever should pass the Roman gates! Rather than fail his country the King accepted the Church's ban, with these simple words: « I have lost successively mother, wife, brother; the Church says it is God's punishment, without reflecting that a King to ensure his happiness hereafter, must ensure that of his people on earth!» When in 1869, believing to be on his death bed, his confessor, before administering the sacraments put the condition of signing a recantation equivalent to abandoning Rome to the Pope, he answered: « I am a catholic, as a catholic I have lived and I die. Should I have harmed anyone here below I ask God's pardon, but the signature you require is the political act of a constitutional Sovereign; speak therefore about it to the Prime Minister who is in the next room; I have nothing to say!».

He got over that illness; his death took place later on the 9th of January 1878. He was and is mourned as the « Re Galantuomo »; no better epitaph adorns a King's tomb.

### CAMILLO CAVOUR, *the Statesman.*

A shrewd calculating Piedmontese, imbued with a profound patriotic sentiment, the wish, the hope to compass Italian unity so far as events and circumstances would allow. A short, dapper, round faced man, in gold framed spectacles, of smiling aspect, rubbing his hand; like a country notary or a debonnaire shopkeeper

to propitiate customers. No one would have believed that the round faced man was capable of bold sudden resolutions or that behind those opulent spectacles were a pair of eyes capable of drawing forth or devining the inward thoughts and intentions of the person accosted.

Count Camillo Benso Cavour, to give him his real patronymics, came of an old noble Piedmontese stock; so noble that he, as the rest of the family, true to their Savoyard descent, like the Kings of the same race, habitually wrote and spoke in French as their native idiom; Italian was an acquired tongue; easily acquired, so well acquired in form and substance, in thought and expression, as to speedily set French to its proper use, the diplomatic organ of expression with foreign powers or persons.

In 1835 the Countess de Circourt, with whom he was on friendly terms, wrote begging him to abandon Piedmont, utterly unfit for developing the gifts of a man endowed with exceptional intelligence or for promising a future brilliant career. Cavour's answer, he was barely twenty five, is nobly characteristic of his patriotism, his future action. «No, it is not by abandoning one's country, small or unfortunate, that glorious ends can be attained. Cursed be he who despises the land of his birth, holds himself something superior to his fellow citizens. For my part I will never divide my lot from that of the Piedmontese. Happy or doomed, my life is my country's. I will never seek fortune elsewhere, were I sure of the most enviable and brilliant future away from my own people!». Patriotic words and promises uttered in his youth, scrupulously observed until the day of his death.

Though social and political questions were his favourite studies, he devoted a fair part of his time to agriculture, introducing into his estate at Leri practical improvements in drainage, housing, manures, he had seen applied during his voyages to England, France and Switzerland, where he was a welcome guest among land owners and politicians alike. He was a confirmed free trader, had a great admiration for Sir Robert Peel. Besides being the soul of an advanced liberal party, economically speaking, that he had greatly helped to found, the editor of a liberal organ «Il Risorgimento» (The Revival), he was an untiring promoter of railroads and in the National Bank of those times had been elected on the

Board of Direction. All this was not calculated to endear him to the governing powers, conservative to the backbone; obliged to acknowledge his talent, his unflagging energy, his practical activity, they above all feared the advent of so formidable a novator. Where possible he was excluded from public life. Things could not go on so for ever; little by little they were modified; events and new ideas, new aspirations were throughout Europe maturing, one by one the old school disappeared, to be replaced by new men who came to the fore, but in their cautious advance could not fall into his ideas, declare a thoroughly liberal policy. They treated, diplomatised, sought his assistance without compromising themselves to his policy. He let them bide, kept aloof, pursued evenly his career, looked after his estate, edited his paper, was the soul of the association that fathered his aims, awaited patiently his time, the hour in which the leading men should wait on him.

The time came. During the patriotic revival in 1848, when all Italy was in flames, he was among those who claimed a constitutional Charter for Piedmont, was instrumental in convincing the King, Charles Albert, to grant it. At the general elections he was elected member of the new House of Commons, for some time was the leader of the more moderate section; was then elected Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. When the proposal was presented to the King by the Ministers in office, he, who had an acute perception of human values, wanted to know if they had weighed maturely their proposal, because it admitted into the Cabinet one who would soon dictate the law to his colleagues and many others.

The King saw clearly. Very little time elapsed before the man's weight, intellectual, moral stamina gave him preponderance in the Cabinet Councils, placed him at the head of affairs when the Ministry, weak in itself, was no longer able to govern the House.

His time had come at last. He was able to develop his policy, liberal while conservative at home, far seeing abroad; watched and cultivated his opportunity to secure an alliance with France against Austria. Cavour was never really liked by the King, who very often quarrelled with him, because unbending and stubborn in his views; he bore with him, confirmed him in power, knowing and appreciating his exceptional political value.

The shrewd statesman's policy for getting on intimate terms with France and dragging her into war with Austria was simple. He read the Emperor; under a mysterious mask of restraint and secret power, knew his vanity, his desire to emulate his uncle's glory. Playing on this failing directly and by means of friends in the Emperor's confidence, showing how Napoleon the III would follow on the footsteps of Napoleon the I, were he to free Italy from foreign thralldom, be the author of the nation's resurrection, he came to a secret understanding by which France guaranteed its military interference should Piedmont be attacked by Austria.

Italian patriotism in those years needed no rousing, it was sufficient not to quench it, both in Piedmont and in Lombardy. Patriotic associations were formed within the limits of the law, preparations for an eventual rising carried on by means of Lombards emigrated to Turin; public spirit was allowed play, when it did not overstep constitutional limits. Austria at first expostulated, afterwards sent a note requiring this and that measure for suppressing the distasteful manifestations, met by the cool answer that the Ministry was not disposed to violate the constitutional law allowing certain liberties, to pleasure any foreign power. The upshot was Cavour's long sought opportunity, a violent rupture, Austria's declaration of war, France's guarantee called into action. The Piedmontese army had meantime been reorganised and strengthened, took the field with 100,000 men. French and Italians were victorious, the Lombard Provinces were annexed, whilst Cavour's agents in touch with men of standing in the other small reigns of central Italy, when the population rose, drove out their reigning powers, ensured a popular vote for annexation to Italy under the sceptre of Victor Emmanuel.

In 1860 Cavour's was a waiting game; he had no sympathy with Garibaldi, it was reciprocal, but a great fear of his engaging the country, popular as he was, in some headstrong republican enterprise. He therefore secretly encouraged the Sicilian enterprise, calculating either on its success and the eventual profit to the Kingdom, or, the chances seemed greater, on its failure and the consequent downfall of Garibaldi; a national profit either way, according to his conservative views and tendencies.

Meanwhile he took his precautions, sent his agents to Palermo;



once success had smiled on the adventurers, they prevailed on Garibaldi's giving up his dictatorship without making any terms as to the future and simply making over the conquered provinces to the King.

It would thus seem as if the Statesman's career promised for himself and his country a most brilliant future; so it might have been had not death, most untimely death, cut short his life in the vigour of his years, at barely 52 in the year 1861.

Cavour's industry was unflagging. Besides continual contributions to reviews on scientific, social, political problems, besides his activity in the various public branches, opened up to him successively, his correspondence was both brilliant and voluminous. In it, more than elsewhere, he reveals his true nature, his intellect, heart and character, the qualities essential to a Statesman who has gained unto himself his country's gratitude and a conspicuous place in international History.

## ROYAL FAMILY

For whatever else reigning Monarchs may lay claim to, undoubtedly our constitutional Monarch can lay claim to seniority among his compeers.

The first Duke or Count of Savoy, founder of the House reigning over the territory, Piedmont and Savoy, stretching in the Prealps and the Alpine Hills between France and Italy, harks back to the very beginning of the 11th Century. As of most who lived in those early times, historical records are somewhat summary outlines of Humbert of the White Hand (Umberto Biancamano), founder of the dynasty, long before Hohenzollerns, Hapsburgs, Hanoverians emerged from the mists of creation.

He seems to be undoubtedly a fact. History assigns him as father Otho William, count of Burgundy, who named him Governor of Savoy, subsequently given over to him as fief by the Burgundian Emperor Conrad, a reward for devotion and valour on the battlefield, against the rebels to the Imperial rule headed by the Emperor's nephew, Otho, count of Champagne, towards the middle of the century.

The long line of Dukes or Counts succeeds uninterruptedly until in recent times they became Kings. They took part in the Crusades, Humbert the II with Geoffrey di Buglione; Amedeus in 1147 together with his nephew Louis King of France. Amedeus the V, 1248-1323, consolidated his House's power and increased its dominions. Edward was the first, in 1324, to grant charters to his subjects and call a general parliament to discuss various grievances. Amedeus the VI, the « Conte Verde » (the Verdant Knight), so called for having in his youth, attired in green, with the motto « j'attends mon astre » gained the prize for valour in a splendid tournament at Chambéry, again carried to the east the victorious arms of Savoy. The Emperor John Paleologus of Bizantium threatened on all sides by the Turks, appealed for help to Christianity and not in vain. Among others, Amedeus flew to the rescue. He took Gallipoli, marched to Constantinople, liberated the Emperor, prisoner of the Bulgarians, after laying siege to their Capital Varna. He was the founder of the highest order of Italian Chivalry, the Chevaliers of the SS. Annunziata, who have the right to wear a Collar bestowed on only twenty persons who are considered cousins of the Royal Family.

Amedeus VIII, whose virtue was recognised by the Emperor Sigismund, was created first Duke of Savoy. Though Duke, imbued with religious fervour, he left in power his son Ludwig, retired from the world's pomps, together with six favourite knights withdrew to the Hermitage of Ripaglia, whereby founding the second chivalresque Italian order of SS. Maurizio e Lazzaro (SS. Maurice and Lazarus).

Though no formal abdication had been proclaimed, Amadeus lived a cenobite's life, giving advice when necessary, otherwise devoting himself to works of charity, until a schism broke out in the Church of Rome under Pope Eugene IV. The opponent prelates met at Basilea, deposed the Pope, elected in his stead Amedeus. Though unwilling, he was induced to accept; under the name of Felix V for nine years was acknowledged and submitted to as Pope by the greater part of the Catholic community. On the death of Eugene, when Nicholas V succeeded, Amedeus resigned the tiara to reestablish unity in the Church.

Whilst for a century events had greatly diminished its power

and lustre, the Savoyard prestige was placed upon a firmer basis than ever by Emmanuel Philibert in the sixteenth century. Supreme Captain of the Spanish troops in the war against the French, commanded by Montmorency, he worsted the latter in the memorable battle of S. Quintino 10th August 1557. In the following peace he reacquired all his States, married Marguerite of France, sister of the reigning King Henry II. He devoted the rest of his life to the consolidation and government of his States.

With Victor Amedeus II the Dukes of Savoy assume the title of Kings of Sardinia. By the treaty of 1713 Sicily had been comprised among the Duke's dominions and he exchanged it in 1720 for the former island. He was a warrior King, defending his native land against the encroachments of its powerful neighbours, both France and Spain. An heroic episode during the siege of Turin has become historic. The efforts to defend the fortress against the French besiegers were ineffe'ual. They continually gained ground, were on the point of forcing the only huge wooden gate by which an entrance could be effected, mined principally through the work of a poor simple miner, Pietro Micca. Whilst the French with hatchets and battering rams were overcoming this last obstacle, Micca seeing all lost called on his companion to fire the train by him laid carefully. Seeing him hesitate, he took the match from his hand, said: « be off, save your life as you value it more than I do » then fired the mine. His body, together with those of three assailing companies of grenadiers, their battery of cannons werehurled into the air, raising a human monument to his intrepidity.

Charles Albert is the last King of Sardinia; the dynasty becomes henceforward Italian. His studies in Paris enhanced and confirmed an inherited liberal tendency. He was the first, bold enough to entertain the idea of extending his dominion throughout the Italian territory occupied by Austria, the Lombardo-Venetian provinces. In 1821, then heir apparent, he was supposed to belong to the secret society of the Carbonari, to have been cognisant of a conspiracy organised in Turin to dethrone his uncle, a narrow minded man, the reigning sovereign; a conspiracy that fell through completely.

In 1846, when Pius the IX, who as Cardinal Mastai Ferretti was supposed to entertain liberal Italian tendencies, was elected

Pope, a wave of Italian sentiment, the outcome principally of the mazzinian propaganda, swept over the Peninsula, carried away the King, who hoped to find in the new sovereign of the Papal States a congenial spirit with whom to join efforts against a common enemy, Austria. General enthusiastic acclamations awaited both rulers in their separate visits to the various parts of their dominions; 1848 saw general risings throughout the country: the invaders were compelled to retire, the Piedmontese and the Papal armies were arrayed against the Austrian forces, volunteers from all parts of the country flocked to their banners. The Constitutional Charter governing Italy at the present time was then granted by Charles Albert to the Kingdom of Piedmont; his example was followed by the Pope who elected an almost entirely secular governing power for the Roman States.

It was of no avail. After a series of battles Charles Albert was worsted by Radeztky at Novara; the Pope, dubious of future events, recalling his dreams of Italian patriotism in his care for possible troubles overhanging the Church, following the advice of the Austrian Ambassador, fled from turbulent Rome, took refuge in the fortress of Gaeta. The citizens of Milan organised a five days heroic resistance against the victorious Austrian army; Rome resisted over three months, Garibaldi commanding, against the armies brought to overcome her by France, Spain and Naples, was then overcome, obliged to capitulate and the Pope escorted by French troops returned to Rome no longer an Italian, but the Head of the Catholic Church. Charles Albert, wounded to the core, after signing an armistice and peace with Radetzky, abdicated in favour of his eldest son Victor Emmanuel; he, whose privilege it was to jeopardise his crown for Italian Unity, to see his efforts crowned with success and be the first to mount the Italian throne. Of whom more is said when touching on the prime factors of Italy's rebirth as a nation.

He was succeeded by his son Humbert, whose regal consort and cousin Marguerite was distinguished and is distinguished as Dowager Queen, for rare accomplishments of mind, person and soul. The King, an example of correct constitutional conduct, devoted much of his time to military matters, was, as all the members of his House, unfearing; to this he owes his untimely unhappy death.

Walking in his park at Monza, welcoming without the slightest fear the crowd by which he was surrounded, a fanatic sprang upon him, wounded him mortally with a dagger. He fell, victim to his courage and faith in those for whom he lived and reigned, leaving in death a personification of his house's loyalty to its country and its institutions.

We believe our actual Royal Family to be the best in Europe, not only for its Head's scrupulous observance of the people's liberties, of the provisions enacted in the Constitutional Charter, but also for his strict sense of Royal duty, his broad understanding, his modern views in complete harmony with the spirit of the times, his extensive knowledge, his exemplary family life, aided in all by his Royal Consort, a model wife and mother, in all charitable institutions the practical guiding mind, the willing soul. Their children, fine healthy boys and girls, highly instructed in their simple congenial family life. Whereby our reigning family seems to us an example of Royalty to all Crowned Heads in Europe. Let their portraits speak for them.

## STATUS

Having enlarged somewhat on persons, one may now give a cursory glance at things; the more so as they represent collective not individual effort, the nation's, not this or that distinguished citizen's life.

Several elements are necessary to gauge accurately a nation's civil, moral, political, economical progress; its measure of civilisation, its status among nations. For the former comparisons with the past, for the latter comparisons with its competitors in the ranks of humanity.

Much might be adduced tabularly, or otherwise, much cannot, considering our guide's abridged form: compression must be powerfully applied to summarise and convey in tables the greatest amount of information.

Politically, laws, franchise, form of government; economically, commerce, credit, traffic, industry, general and individual wealth;

morally, education, instruction, criminality; civilly, local and national institutions; lastly comparison under these heads with other nations contribute one and all to establish an international standing grounded on facts.

*Politically*, owing to the scrupulous observance of the Charter by the reigning Sovereigns, Italy has enjoyed and does enjoy amongst nations the largest measure of liberty and tolerance to extreme parties; excessive perhaps, according to some minds.

The Charter granted by Charles Albert in 1848 established a Constitutional Monarchy, where the King reigns and the Nation governs by means of its legitimate representatives, Senate and House of Commons, who designate an Executive and make the laws, The King is the head of the Executive, sanctions its formation, commands the military forces by land and sea, gives his approval to all legislative and executive measures, ratifies treaties with foreign Powers. This Charter has been most faithfully observed by the descendants of Charles Albert, Victor Emmanuel II, Humbert I, and the reigning Monarch, Victor Emmanuel III. Ministries retain power so long as they command a majority in the House of Commons. The latter must be submitted to the reelection of the country every five years if not sooner. The franchise was at first restricted to a small number of electors on a high property basis and the members of learned bodies, who therefore appropriated the 508 constituencies into which the country is divided. Within the last fifty years, at several periods, the franchise has been gradually extended, until, under the late ministry, with Sig. Giolitti as Premier, universal suffrage was proclaimed and adopted.

Municipal franchise is as the political; as is municipal government, with the exception of there being one legislative body instead of two. Universal franchise elects a Municipal Council, whose number is proportioned to the population, with power to govern, enact local legislation, appoint an executive consisting of the Mayor and the heads of the departments into which the administration is divided. One third of the municipal council is renewed every two years; though, subject to government control and supervision, it can at any time be totally dissolved by the Home Minister.

A second local subdivision is the division of the country into 69 Provinces, whose administration is presided over by the Prefect,

a government official, assisted by a Provincial Council and executive, the former elected by universal suffrage, the latter by the Council itself. The body's power lays over the provincial communications by land or water, the insane and such measures as may concern collective provincial interests, without trenching on the powers entrusted to the Communes. The Province, by means of a special executive body, enjoys a power of supervision on all the single municipal administrations.

On the same lines as the suffrage, primary instruction has spread, though in an old and poor country, principally agricultural, divided up, among mountains and valleys, into over 8000 communes and their fractions, to which the school organisation is entrusted, progress has been relatively slow.

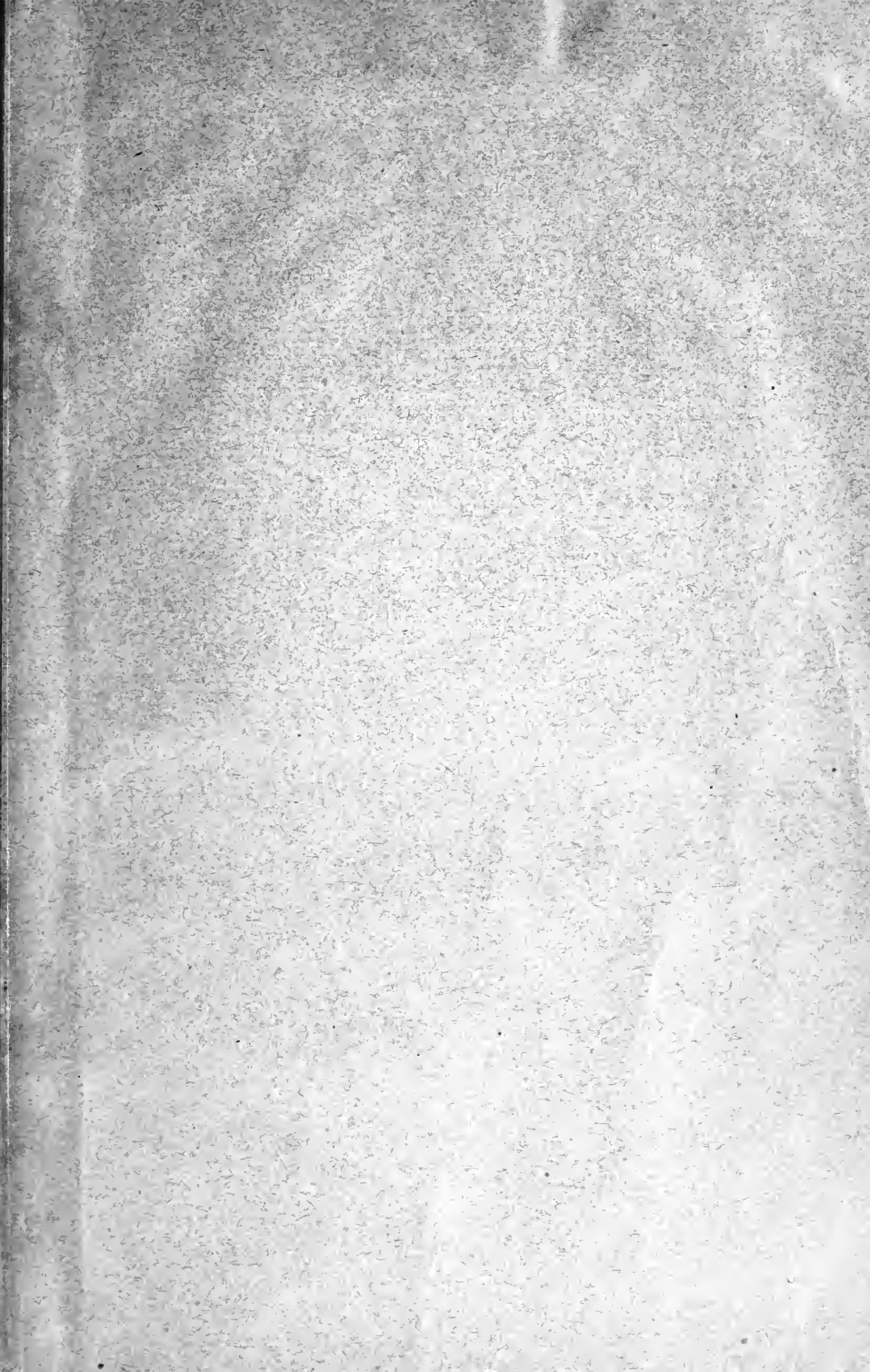
In the country the peasants, with the small modicums of land assigned to them, tilled mostly by hand labour, make use of their children at a very early age, in looking after pigs, poultry, sheep and smaller children; they are thus financially interested in keeping them away from school. Another difficulty is in the distance hamlets, spread over the territory, are from any small centre where a school can be established; hamlets and cottages located frequently in inaccessible spots, shut out from communication with the outer world in bad weather. Notwithstanding these physical and moral obstacles, considerable progress has been made.

Not many years ago, perhaps not more than five and twenty, the number of illiterate, between men and women, with a larger proportion of the latter, bordered on seventy per cent of the population; now it is under fifty; and every year that passes, with new roads opened out, new schools, new laws, more stringent in compelling compulsory attendance, new evening schools for daily labourers, all this summed up together, with a growing conviction as to the necessity of attaining elementary instruction, is reducing rapidly to a normal proportion the destitute of the three R's. Within five years, one can boldly affirm that Italy will be on a par with the most advanced countries in this respect, though it will take time and generations to form the conscience of the agricultural population, impressing on it the economical advantage of losing time in gaining knowledge.

As instruction cannot suppress criminal tendencies or the in-







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